NINJA
HIGH SCHOOL
STOP
CORVETTE
00 Quagmire 00
2-KOOL
SALUSIAN ONE
3
BEN DUNN

VOLUME 3

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MAIN CHARACTERS

PRINCESS ASRIAL
Asrial is the eldest princess of Salusia, a planet of skunk-like humanoids. Usually sweet, gentle and kind, she also has a fierce temper and a strong sense of pride in her heritage. When angered, she demonstrates immense strength and a talent for producing power armor and weapons out of thin air. A natural mechanic/engineer, she is able to apply Salusia's advanced technology even to Earth machines.

ICHI-KUN "ITCHY KOO" ICHINOHEI
Ichi is the first-born daughter of the Ichinohei ninja clan and is heir to its leadership. Initially, Ichi is quite vain, selfish and conniving, but she quickly learns that there are better ways to treat people than that. Aside from her prodigious skills as a ninja, she also has a remarkable ability to pull giant mallets out of nowhere.

JEREMY FEEPLE
Jeremy is your average high-school student living in your not-so-average town. He's reasonably athletic, but no jock; reasonably intelligent, but no nerd. His father disappeared some years ago, and Jeremy's had to be the man of the house ever since. Despite his mother and little brother both being ninjas, Jeremy's never taken to that calling.

SAKURA INN

"RELATIVE HAPPENINGS"
PART ONE
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY BEN DUNN
PLOT BY JAMES HANRAHAN
LETTERS BY CLEM ROBINS

JUST OUTSIDE THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, A SALUSIAN SCOUT SHIP APPROACHES...

NO DOUBT, HERE FOR SOME DARK, SINISTER PURPOSE!

(WELL?)*

*TRANSLATED, OF COURSE.

(NOT BAD... NOT BAD...)

(I TOLD YOU THE RECEPTION WOULD BE GOOD.)

(LET ME JUST BOOST THE SIGNAL A BIT MORE...)

SALUSIAN COLA 12 OZ

(WOW! NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO MISS "THE PERILS OF MEECHA!")

(I HOPE YOU BROUGHT SOME BLANK TAPE...)

(I THOUGHT YOU DID, NESTOR...)

KLIK! KLIK!

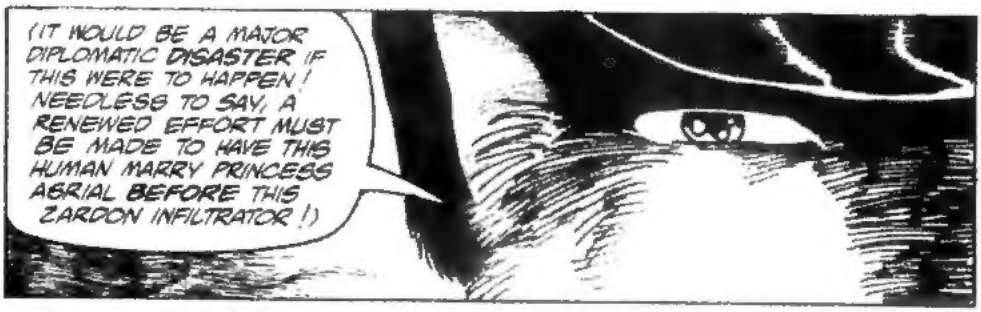
(AH-HA!!)

(HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU GUYS THAT YOU CAN'T WATCH T.V. WHILE ON DUTY?!)
TAK!

(BUT, JAKA! WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO? ALL WE DO IS SIT AND MONITOR THIS DUMB PLANET!)
(WELL, WE'VE GOT NEW ORDERS...
FROM THE ROYAL HOUSE (ITSELF!)

(THE ROYAL HOUSE? MUST BE REALLY BIG!)
(WELL, LET'S JUST SEE, BAKA!)
(NOW TO PUNCH IN THE SECURITY CODE...)

(THIS IS CAPTAIN SOANDSO OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SALUSIA TO THE CREW OF THE "BILGE RODENT"! NEW ORDERS HAVE JUST COME IN FROM KING JERKA!)
(NEWS HAS REACHED US THAT A ZARDON SPY WILL ATTEMPT TO BEWED) JEREMY FEEPLE!


(IT WOULD BE A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC DISASTER IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN! NEEDLESS TO SAY, A RENEWED EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO HAVE THIS HUMAN MARRY PRINCESS AGRIAL BEFORE THIS ZARDON INFILTRATOR!)

(IT IS UP TO YOU TO FIND THIS) JEREMY FEEPLE (AND KEEP ALL OTHER HUMANS AWAY!)
(BUT WHAT DOES A) JEREMY FEEPLE (LOOK LIKE?)
(YEAH!)

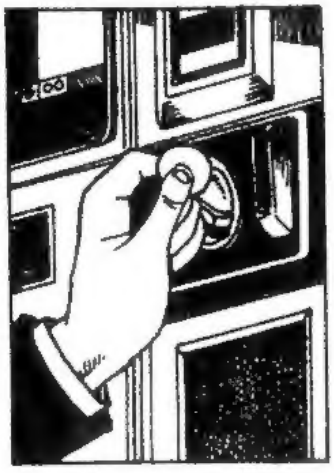
(THIS IS THE SUBJECT! HE MUST BE CONVINCED TO MARRY PRINCESS ASRIAL AT ALL COSTS!)
(OH, BOY... WHAT A HOMELY-LOOKING GUY.)

(THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE CONGLOMERATE AND ALL THAT... RESTS ON YOUR SHOULDERS!)
THIS IS CAPTAIN SOANDSO, ENDING THIS TRANSMISSION!)

(IF I SUCCEED, THIS COULD MEAN A PROMOTION!
HAHAHA

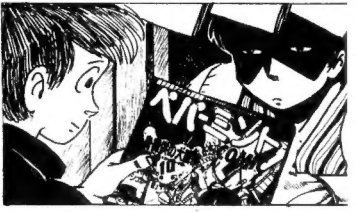
(WHAT'S SO FUNNY?)
(DID YOU LOOK AT THAT GUY?!
(THE POOR PRINCESS!)

(ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS! INTO THE CHAMBER!)
POINT!
(BOY, HE SURE TURNED INTO A JERK ALL OF A SUDDEN!)
(I CAN TELL THIS IS GOING TO BE A REAL FUN MISSION. SHEESH!)



KA-KUK!

♪

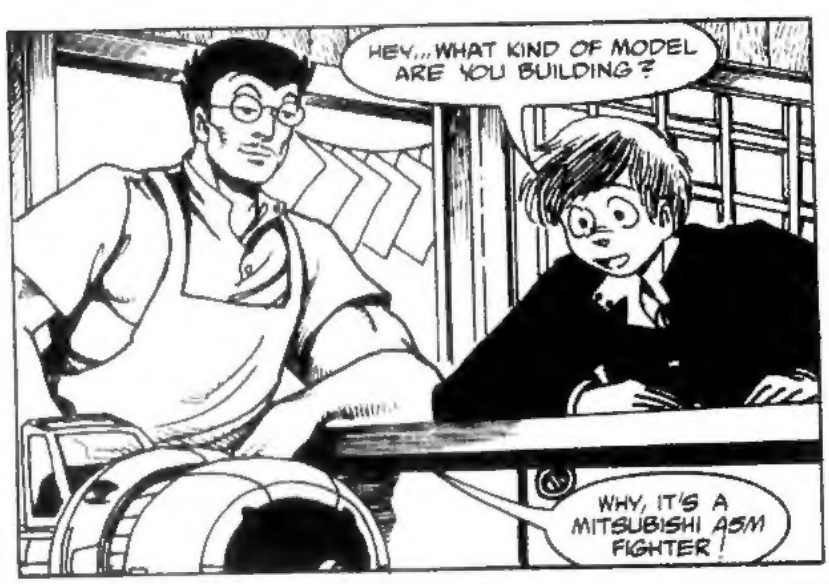


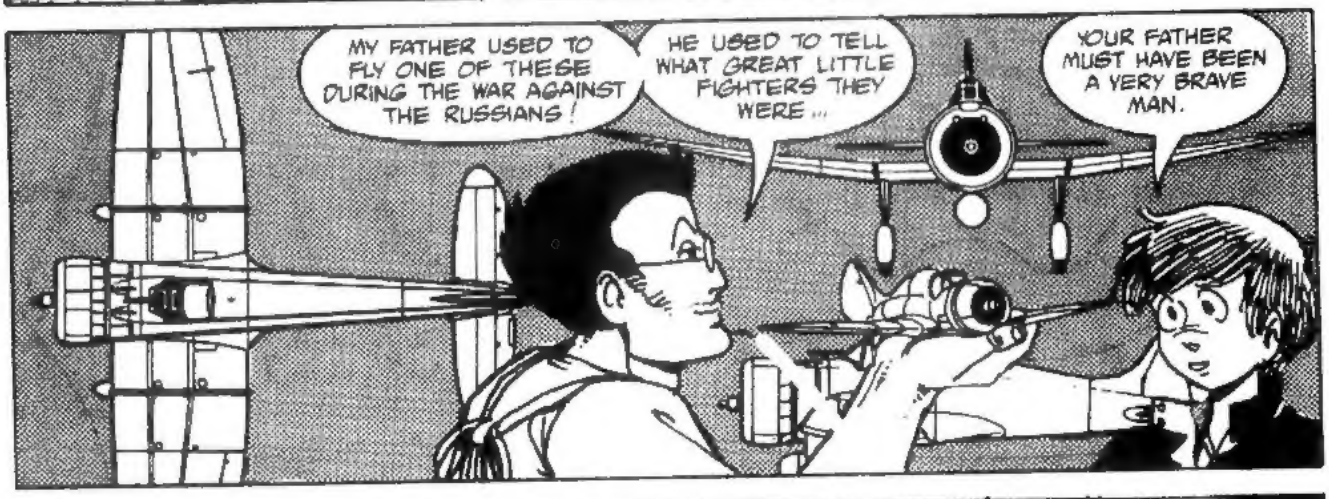
STARE

UHM... HI!

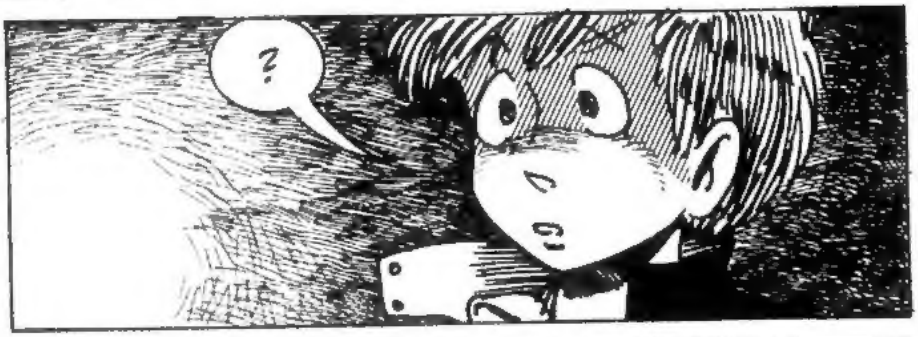
HOW DO YOU DO, YOUNG MAN?
UH... FINE, THANK YOU, SIR.

WILL THAT BE ALL, YOUNG MAN?
YES...


HEY... WHAT KIND OF MODEL ARE YOU BUILDING?
WHY, IT'S A MITSUBISHI A5M FIGHTER!


MY FATHER USED TO FLY ONE OF THESE DURING THE WAR AGAINST THE RUSSIANS!
HE USED TO TELL WHAT GREAT LITTLE FIGHTERS THEY WERE...
YOUR FATHER MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY BRAVE MAN.

INDEED HE IS, BUT HE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER MONGOLIA IN 1940 BY RUSSIANS AND CAPTURED... FORTUNATELY, HE ESCAPED WITH THE HELP OF A RUSSIAN NURSE.
GOOD THING, TOO... IF NOT FOR THAT NURSE, WE MIGHT NOT ALL BE HERE TODAY TALKING...


?

BY THE WAY, YOUNG MAN...
DO YOU NOT THINK IT IS TIME YOU BE ON YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL?
YIPES!
YOU'RE RIGHT!

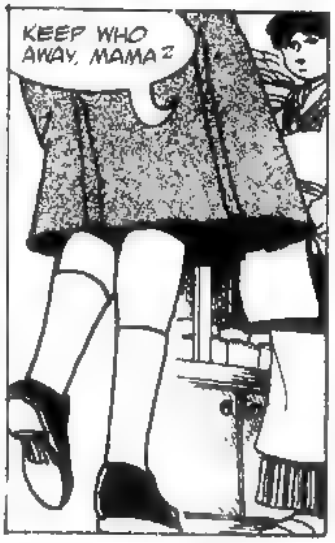
THANKS FOR THE STORY...
ANYTIME, YOUNG MAN... BYE NOW!

BYE...

SO WHO WAS THAT SAITIN, SHOJI?
NOW IS THAT ANY WAY TO SPEAK ABOUT A RELATIVE, HANA?

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT WAS YOUR FATHER'S GRANDSON?
INDEED, IT IS!
SO WHY DID YOU NOT SAY ANYTHING TO HIM?
I HAVE MY REASONS!

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THAT KID AND HIS LECHEROUS WAYS!
WHAT KIND OF TALK IS THAT? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM!
I KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT HIM TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM HITOMI!


KEEP WHO AWAY, MAMA?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOUR ADOPTED COUSIN WHO WAS JUST HERE!

YOU MEAN, JEREMY WAS HERE JUST NOW?
WHY, YES
YOU STAY AWAY FROM HIM, HITOMI! UNDERSTAND?

OH, MAMA! YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE ALL THOSE THINGS ICHI WRITES ABOUT!
YOUR SISTER WOULD NOT MAKE UP THINGS LIKE THAT!

OH, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE HER ALONE, FOR GOODNESS SAKES!

YOU ALWAYS WERE A BAD INFLUENCE
KIKK!

OH! GOING TO BE UNREASONABLE EH?

!YIE!!
LEAP!
SO JEREMY IS GOING TO MY SCHOOL EH?
ALL THIS TIME I'VE WANTED TO SEE WHAT HE IS LIKE! EVER SINCE ICHI BEGAN WRITING TO ME, MY CURIOSITY HAS BEEN HITTING FEVER PITCH!
I WONDER IF EVERYTHING ICHI DESCRIBES HIM AS BEING IS TRUE OR NOT?

HMMM...
I WONDER

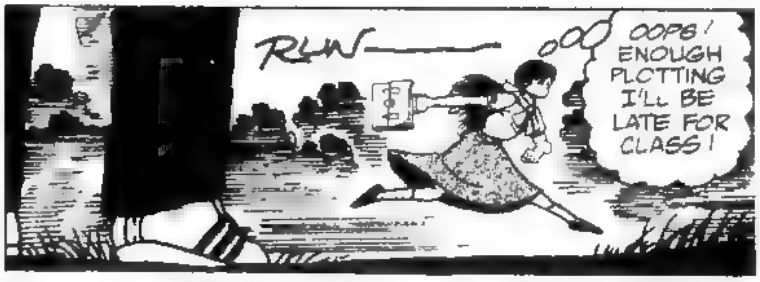
WELL, HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE TOO FAR AHEAD!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH UP WITH HIM!

LEAP!

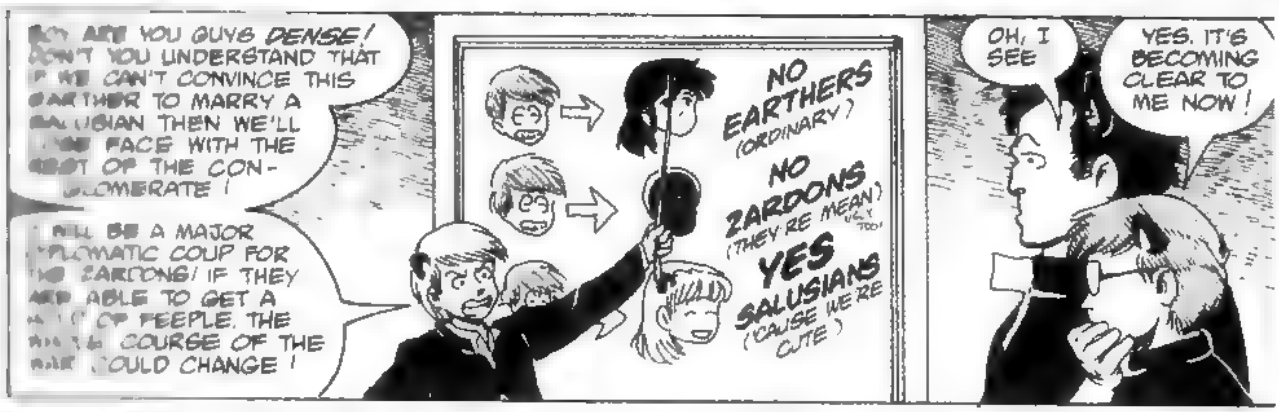
AH THERE HE IS!
?!

IT LOOKS LIKE I ALREADY HAVE COMPETITION! BAH FODEY!

HOWEVER, WITH ICHI IN THE UNITED STATES, IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO OBTAIN JEREMY'S AFFECTIONS!
THEN SHE WON'T BE THE FIRST AT EVERYTHING!
SHE ALWAYS DID GET THE BEST OF EVERYTHING! I'M JUST AS QUALIFIED TO BE CLAN LEADER AS SHE IS!
IT'S NOT FAIR JUST BECAUSE SHE WAS BORN FIRST!


RUN
OOPS! ENOUGH PLOTTING I'LL BE LATE FOR CLASS!

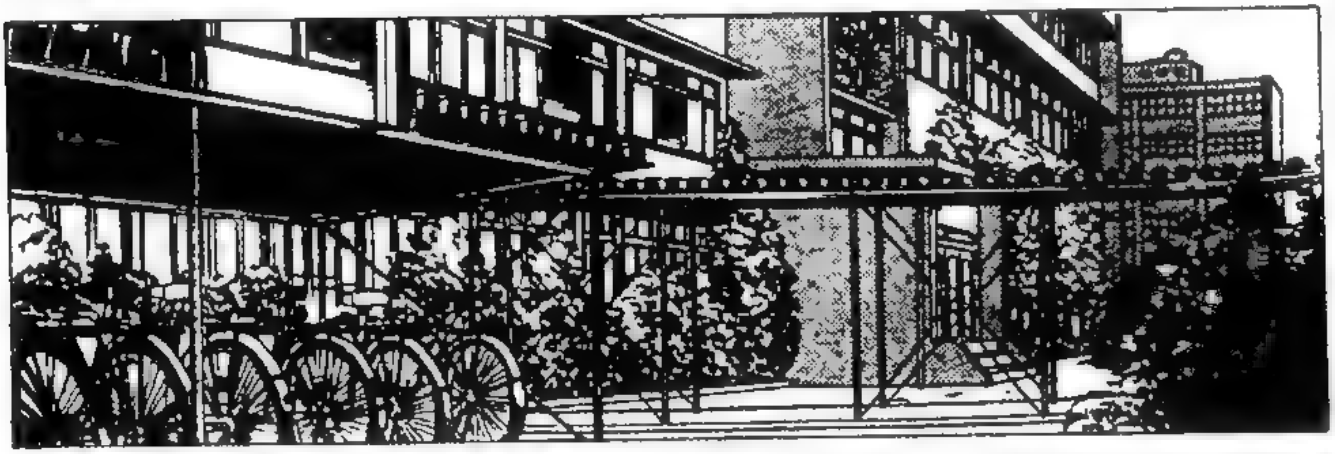
DID YOU SEE HIM?
INDEED I DID! THIS MISSION WILL BE EASIER THAN PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED
SO WHY ARE WE DOING THIS, AGAIN?


ARE YOU GUYS DENSE! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IF WE CAN'T CONVINCE THIS EARTHER TO MARRY A SALUSIAN THEN WE'LL LOSE FACE WITH THE REST OF THE CONGLOMERATE!
IT WILL BE A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC COUP FOR THE ZARDONS! IF THEY ARE ABLE TO GET A LOT OF PEEPLE, THE WHOLE COURSE OF THE WAR COULD CHANGE!
NO EARTHERS (ORDINARY)
NO ZARDONS (THEY'RE MEAN) UGLY TOO!
YES SALUSIANS (CAUSE WE'RE CUTE)
OH, I SEE
YES. IT'S BECOMING CLEAR TO ME NOW!

ARE YOU ATTENDING AT THE SCHOOL?
UH WHY YES...OF COURSE!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME WE WERE LATE?
BUT. BUT.

GUNDAM HIGH SCHOOL ... MID-AFTERNOON.

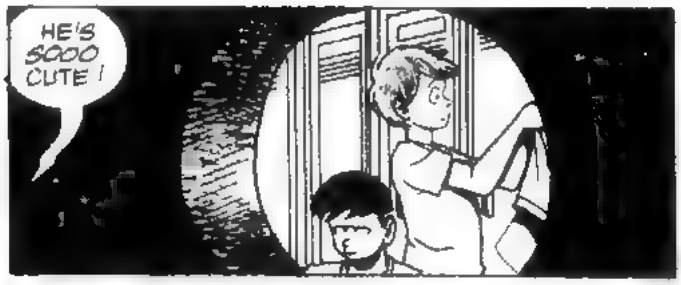


THAT'S A SELFISH ATTITUDE TO TAKE!
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM LEEANNA I'M A, SHALL WE SAY, AN EXCHANGE STUDENT!
LISTEN HERE! JEREMY IS MY COUSIN! SO NOBODY BETTER TOUCH HIM! OR ELSE!
THAT'S NOT THE WAY I SEE IT..
ANY BOY THAT COMES TO THIS SCHOOL IS FAIR GAME!
YOU TRAMP!
DON'T THINK THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET BOYS!
OY! THE BOYS ARE IN THE SHOWERS!

STAMPEDE!

LET ME SEE
STOP SHOVING
WAIT YOUR TURN!

OH, OH! I SEE HIM!


HE'S SOOO CUTE!

HE'S GOING TO TAKE OFF HIS CLOTHES! QUICK! GIVE ME THE BOOK!

UH, HUM

FLIP
FLIP

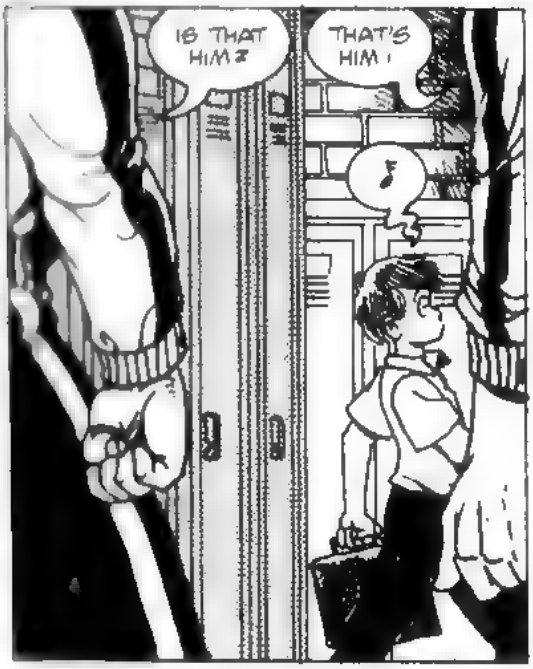
OH, HOW DISAPPOINTING! HE'S ONLY ABOUT AVERAGE!
WHAT A PITY.

THAT'S TOO BAD!
AWWW
I HEARD THAT GIRLS HAVE'S WHEN THEY ARE AROUSED!
MAYBE THAT'S IT!

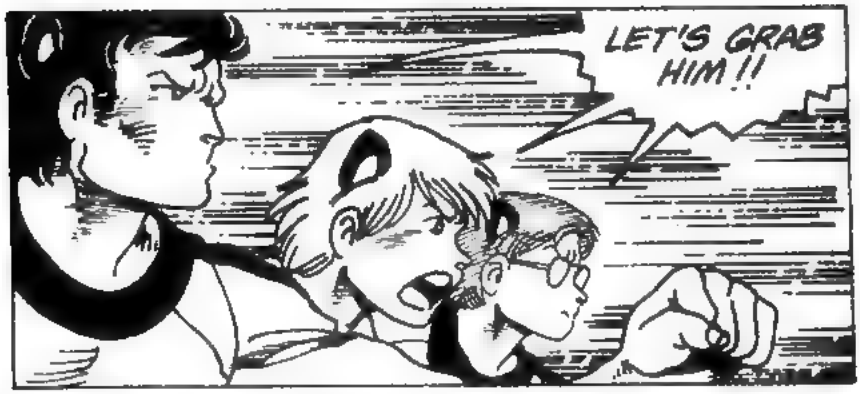
I VOLUNTEER TO FIND OUT!
OH, NO YOU DON'T FUJIKO!

HMMMM! IT SEEMS THIS JEREMY PERSON IS CREATING ANIMOSITY BETWEEN THOSE TWO EARTH FEMALE TYPES! PERHAPS THERE IS MORE TO HIM THAN MEETS THE EYE AND HE'LL MAKE A WORTHY GROOM FOR THE ZARDON EMPIRE!
ARH! HISS! SPIT!

WHEN I HEARD THAT PRINCESS ASRIAL WAS ON AN IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC MISSION, I HAD NO IDEA THAT SHE WAS CONSIDERING MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET EARTH INTO THE CONGLOMERATE!
ATTA-GIRL!
NOW THAT I KNOW, I WILL MAKE ASRIAL PAY FOR WHAT SHE DID TO ME MANY YEARS AGO AND RUIN HER NAME THROUGHOUT THE CONGLOMERATE!
THEN THE ZARDON EMPIRE WILL REIGN SUPREME!


IS THAT HIM?
THAT'S HIM!

DOES EVERYONE KNOW THE PLAN?
OF COURSE!
RIGHT!


LET'S GRAB HIM!!

lb!

YOU BOYS WEREN'T ON THE FIELD TODAY!
PLAYING HOOKEY FROM CLASS IS A NO-NO!

STUPID! WHY DIDN'T YOU CHECK THE SCHEDULE!
BUT...BUT..

MEANWHILE.
PRETTY NEAT SCHOOL!

NOW!

SLIDE

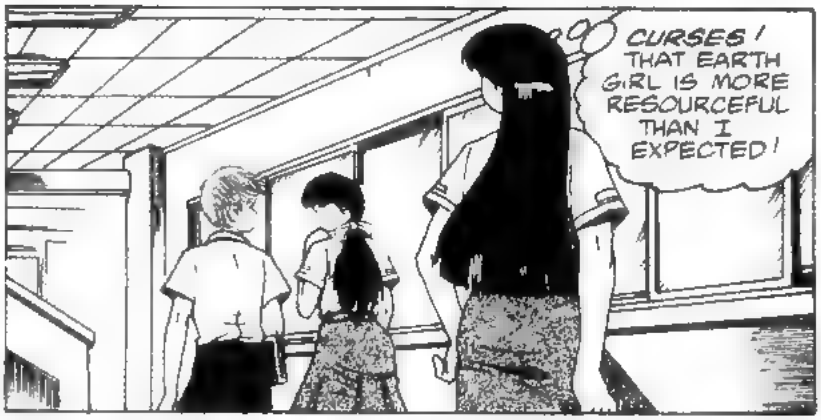
EE-YOW!

SNIFF!
OH, GEE, GOSH GOLLY I'M SORRY! ARE YOU HURT?

NOT REALLY... IT'S NOT SERIOUS!
ARE YOU SURE?
UH UH
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

NO IT'S JUST THAT YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEBODY
OH, REALLY? WHO?
UH FORGET IT

MY NAME IS JEREMY
MINE IS HITOMI!
CAN I CARRY YOUR BOOKS?
WHY, THANK YOU, JEREMY


CURSES! THAT EARTH GIRL IS MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN I EXPECTED!

OF COURSE, NOT ONLY MEANS I HAVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER!
EH? WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S THAT OTHER GIRL HMMM

THIS GIVES ME AN IDEA

1-F

THIS IS MY CLASS, JEREMY!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! THIS IS MY CLASS, ALSO!

HITOMI!

TIRIP!
(ON PURPOSE)

!
OH-OH!

FUM!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, YOU KNOW! I HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO GO AFTER HIM!

OH YEAH? IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I SAW HIM FIRST!

GIRLS! WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY FIGHTING IN THE HALLS! AFTER ALL, WE WOULDN'T WANT TO RUIN THE PAINT!

IT CAN'T BE!

PROFESSOR STEAMHEAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I COULD VERY WELL ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION, JEREMY, MY CURIOUS STUDENT!

ACTUALLY, I AM HERE TO OBSERVE AN IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED BY MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE PROFESSOR BEANHEAD!

BEANHEAD?

YES! HE IS AN EXPERT IN RADIOACTIVE BEANOLOGY! WHY WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE THE WAR!

HIS EXPERIMENTS RIVAL EVEN MY OWN WORK!! TODAY IN YOUR CLASS, WE INTEND TO CREATE HISTORY!

BEANHEAD? WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE?

WE'LL FINISH THIS LATER!
RIGHT! WE'LL SEE WHO HE PICKS!

HEH, HEH

TODAY CLASS, YOU WILL OBSERVE HISTORY! FOR MANY WEEKS, PROFESSOR BEANHEAD AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON AN INTERDIMENSIONAL REALITY ACTUATOR!
THROUGH THE USE OF SPECIALLY TREATED STEAM AND POWERED BY RADIOACTIVE BEANS, WE CAN CONVERT .

. ANY TWO-DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATION INTO A FEASIBLE MANIFESTATION OF THE DESIRED PROTO-TYPE..

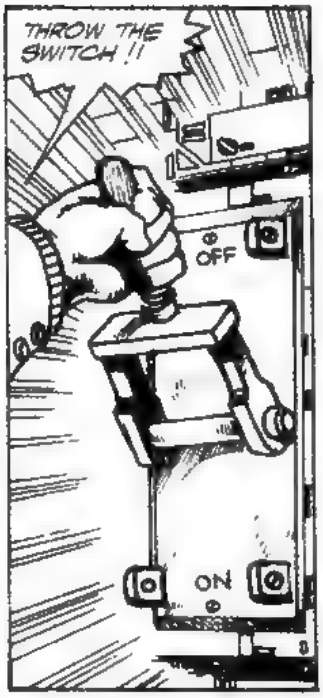
WITH THE USE OF THE MINERAL ZETRANITE, WE BELIEVE THE COMPUTER CAN ACTUALIZE THE OBJECT INTO A PHYSICAL, THREE-DIMENSIONAL FORM!

ALLOW US TO DEMONSTRATE!

HERE WE HAVE A TWO-DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATION!

WE PLACE IT ON THE PLATE..
ACTIVATE PROTON SEQUENCER!

NEGATIVE ZETRANITE LEVEL IS A-OK!
POSITRONIC ACTIVATOR READING IS LEVEL!
HUMM
MMM


THROW THE SWITCH!!
OFF
ON

EXPLODE!

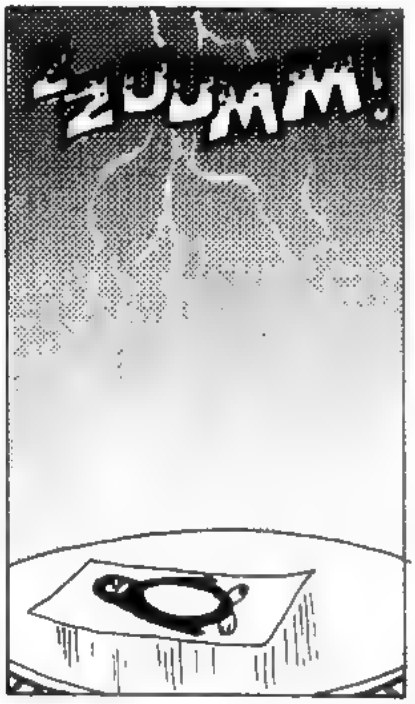
CLASS DISMISSED!
LET'S GO!

HOW STRANGE.. MY CALCULATIONS WERE PERFECT!
AS WERE MINE!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE STEAM!
OH, NO...IT HAD TO BE THE BEANS!

SURELY YOU DON'T THINK MY STEAM HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FAILURE OF YOUR BEANS TO PERFORM?
MY BEANS! IT WAS YOUR STEAM THAT FAILED TO ACT!
NONSENSE! IT WAS YOUR BEANS!
YOUR STEAM!
BEANS!
STEAM!

WHAT FOOLS THESE EARTHERS ARE!
I'M TELLING YOU IT WAS THE BEANS!
STEAM!
BEANS!

IF THEY WOULD ONLY USE A CALCULATOR..
THEY WOULD HAVE SEEN THEY WERE OFF BY A DECIMAL POINT!
TAP! TAP! TAP!


ZUUMM!

POINK!

CHILD'S PLAY!
FOR A MEMBER OF THE ZARDON EMPIRE!
HELLO.

BUT NOW MY CLEVER LITTLE PLAN TO FETCH ME A GROOM IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE!

THAT FUJIKO! TRYING TO MUSCLE INTO MY TERRITORY! WHAT NERVE!

WHO DOES HITOMI THINK SHE IS, TELLING ME I CAN OR CANNOT TRY TO GET A BOYFRIEND?

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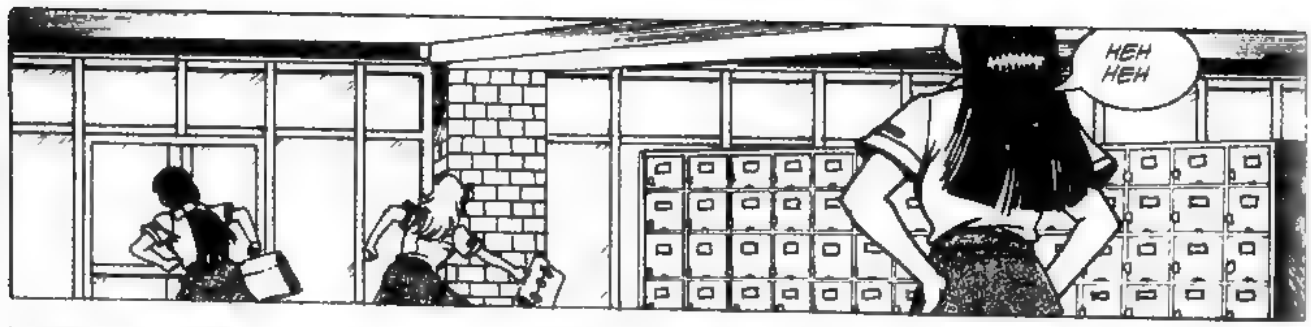
A LOVE LETTER FROM JEREMY! NOW I KNOW HE'S FALLEN FOR ME!

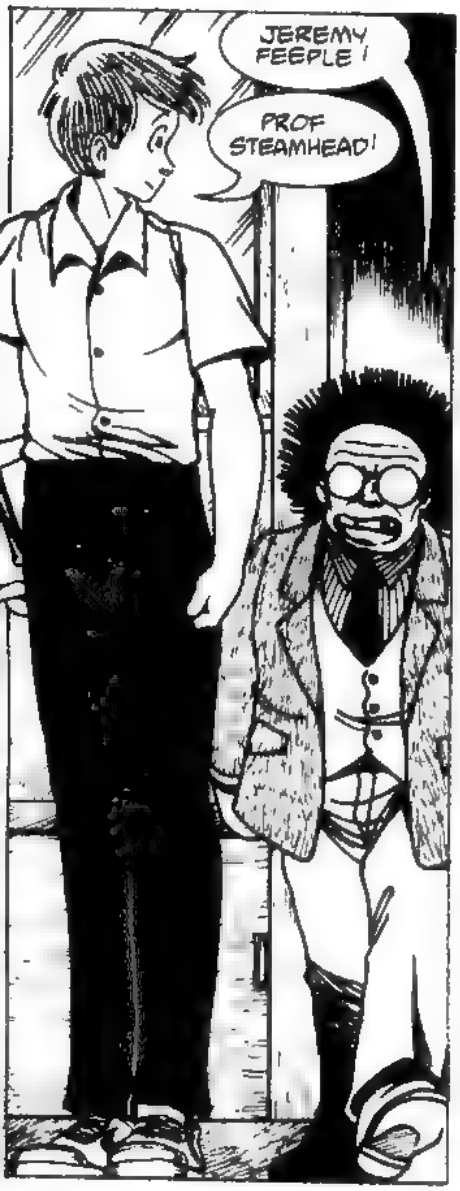
A NOTE FROM JEREMY TO MEET HIM IN THE PARK AFTER SCHOOL.

UHM... ABOUT THIS AFTERNOON. I HAVE SOME CHORES TO DO AT THE STORE!

OH, YES.. AND I HAVE HOMEWORK!

My Love,
The moment I saw you my heart fluttered. I must see you after school at the park fountain. There we will make plans for the future.
Yours truly
Jeremy
♡xxxx


HEH HEH


JEREMY FEEPLE!
PROF STEAMHEAD!

SORRY ABOUT THIS AFTERNOON!
SAVE YOUR SYMPATHIES FOR THAT QUACK BEANHEAD...
ANYWAYS, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!

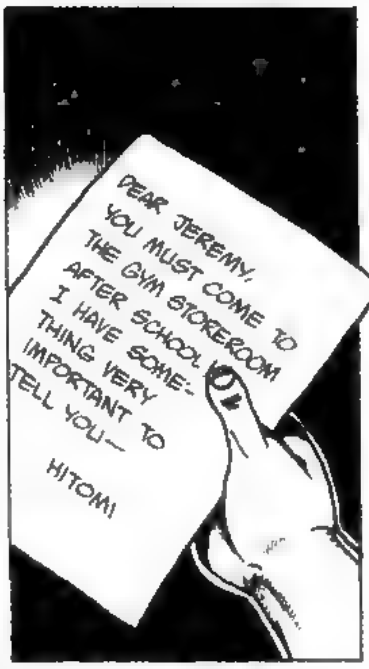
I WONDER WHAT IT IS?
A PERSONAL LETTER FROM HOME!
I WONDER WHAT IT'S ABOUT?
SHE WANTS YOU TO RETURN AS SOON AS THE SEMESTER IS OVER

DO YOU ALWAYS READ OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL?
A PROFESSOR OF STEAMOLOGY CAN DO ANYTHING!

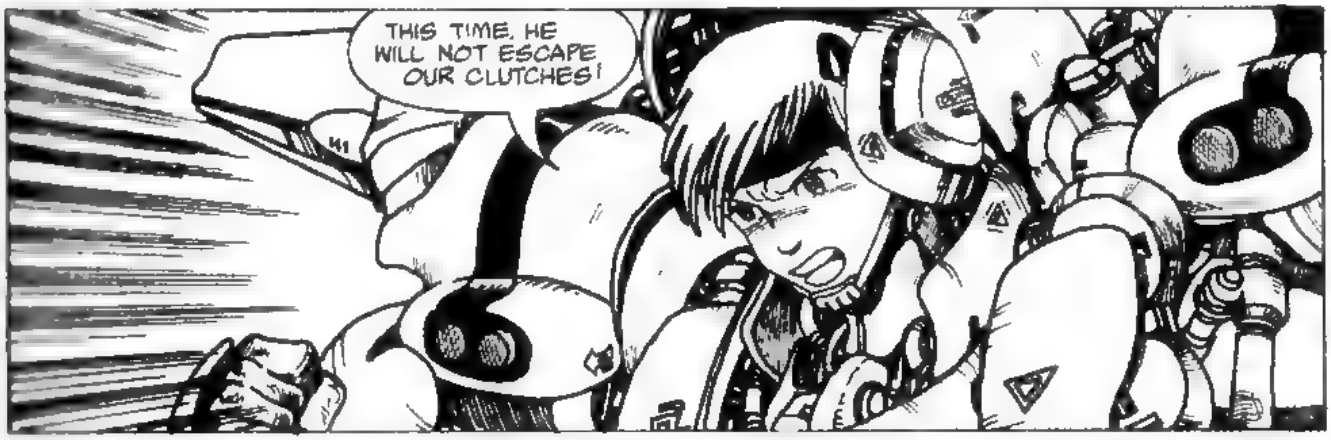
GOSH MOM MUST SURE MISS ME!
HEY!

I WAS TOLD TO GIVE THIS TO YOU!
ANOTHER NOTE?

I WONDER WHO IT'S FROM THIS TIME?


DEAR JEREMY, YOU MUST COME TO THE GYM STOREROOM AFTER SCHOOL. I HAVE SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU— HITOMI

SOMETHING IMPORTANT GEE, I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE?
THERE HE IS!

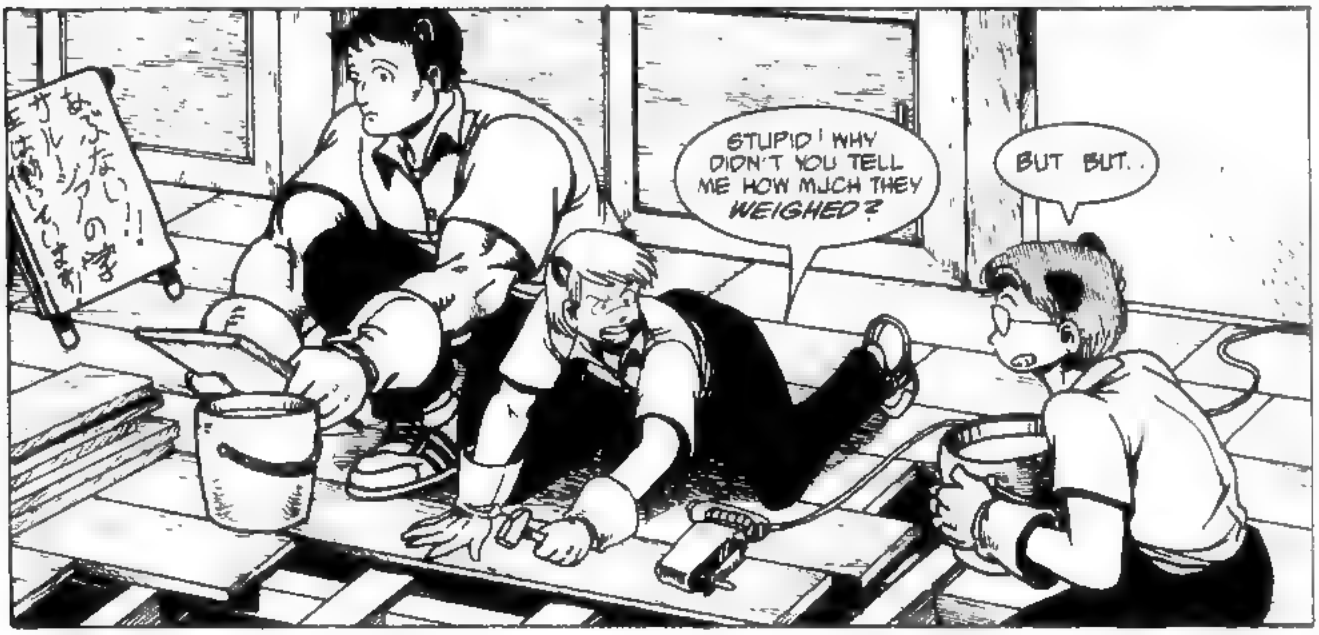

THIS TIME, HE WILL NOT ESCAPE OUR CLUTCHES!

FOR THE GLORY THAT IS SALUSIA, WE WILL TRIUMPH!

:AHEM:
?!
KA-CHUN!
KA-CHUN!
KA-CHUN!

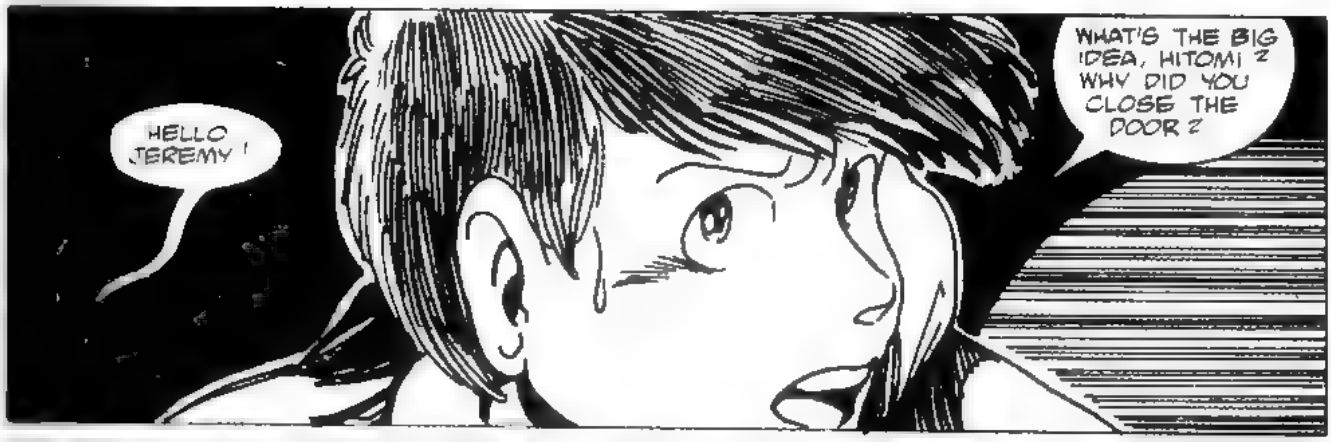
ARE YOU THE OWNERS OF THOSE ARMORED SUITS?
UH, YES, SIR!

WELL, THEY'RE TEARING UP THE FLOOR! YOU THREE WILL HAVE TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE!


STUPID! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME HOW MUCH THEY WEIGHED?
BUT BUT..

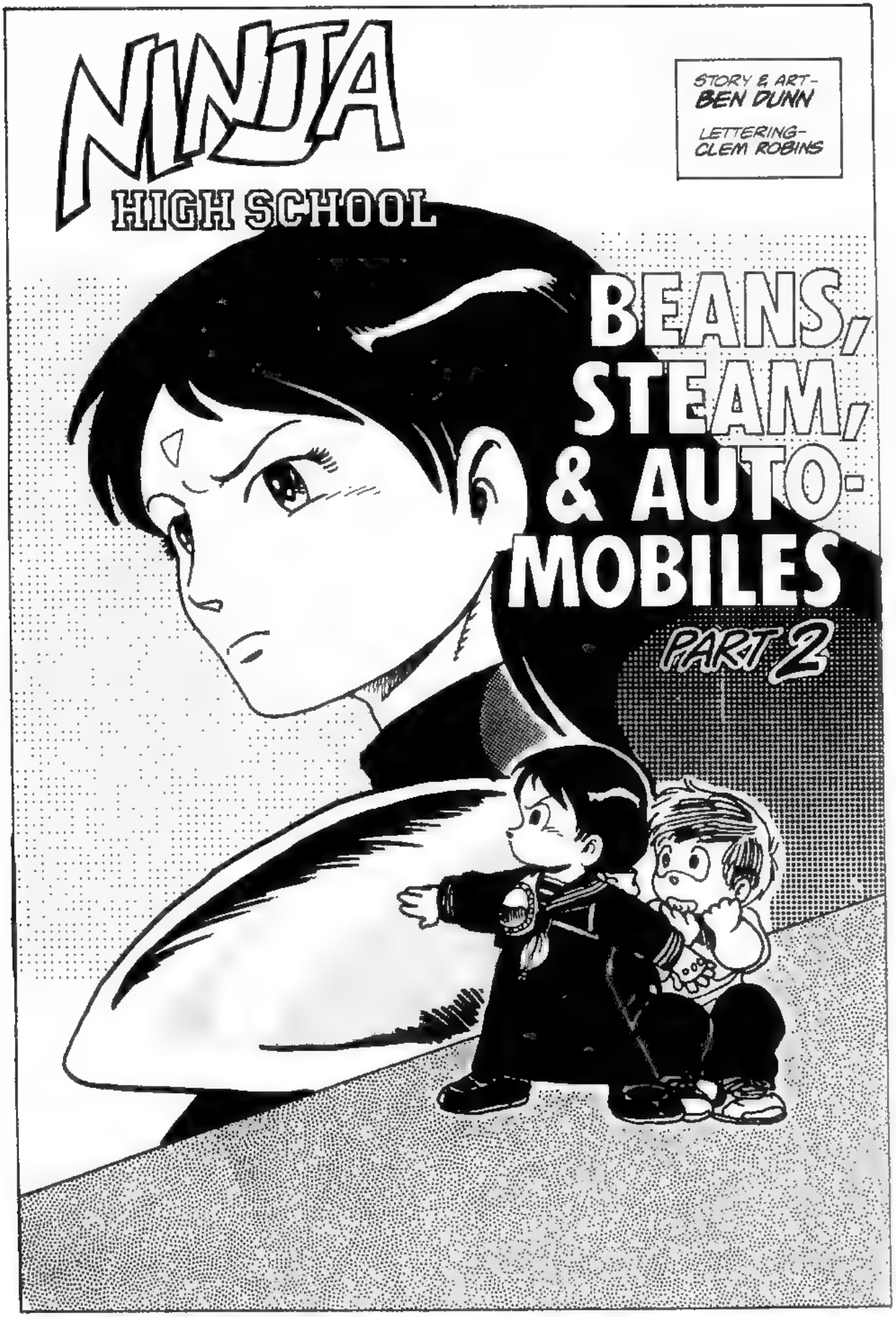
体育用具室

THIS IS THE STOREROOM.
体育用具室



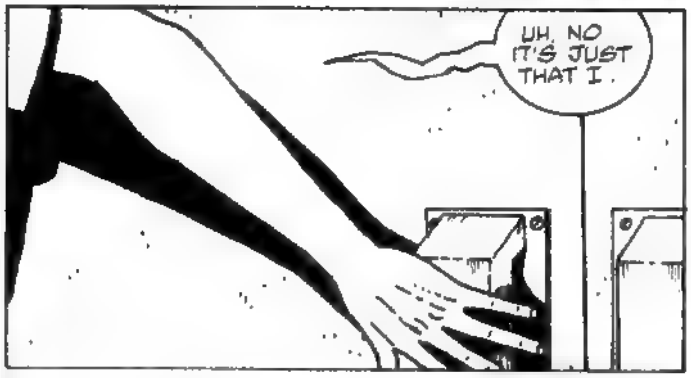
FIRST OF ALL I'M REALLY *NOT* HITOMI!

SECOND OF ALL... I *WANT* YOU!

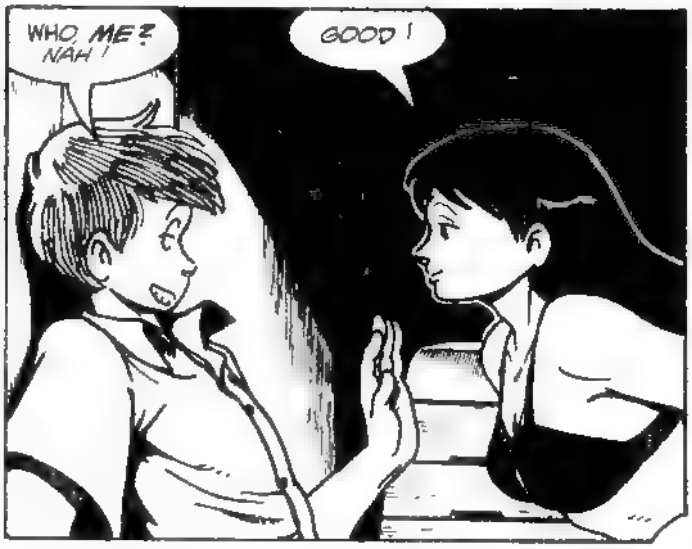

NINJA
HIGH SCHOOL
STORY & ART-
BEN DUNN
LETTERING-
CLEM ROBINS
BEANS, STEAM, & AUTO-MOBILES
PART 2

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, JEREMY..

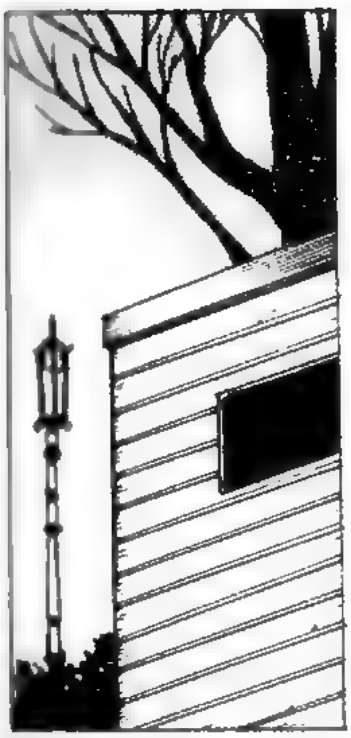
I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK THAT I'M TOO DIRECT...
BUT ONCE I GOT A LOOK AT YOU, I KNEW I HAD TO HAVE YOU IN MY POSSESSION!
WHAT'S THE MATTER JEREMY? DON'T YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

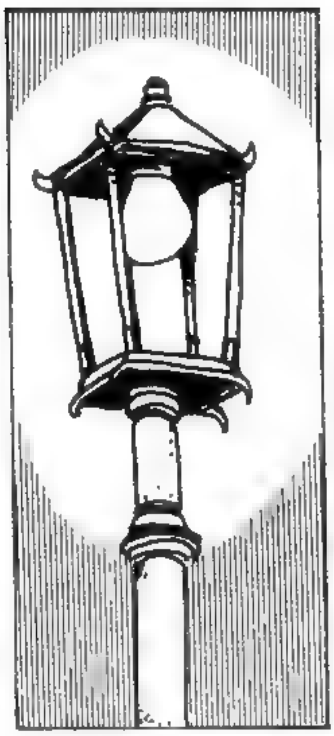

UH, NO IT'S JUST THAT I.

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO ESCAPE, IT'S NO USE! THE DOOR HAS AN AUTOMATIC LOCK!
BUT YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO ESCAPE ANYWAY WOULD YOU?


WHO, ME? NAH!
GOOD!

COULDN'T WE TALK THIS OVER LEEANNA?
THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER, JEREMY!
IT IS A TIME FOR ACTION!
STOP IT! WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS! IT'S NOT RIGHT!
OH, STOP YOUR WHINING YOU LITTLE GIMP!
YOU SHOULD BE HONORED THAT A ZARDONIAN PRINCESS HAS PICKED YOU TO CONSUMMATE A DIPLOMATIC RELATION!
BUT...
HUGH, JEREMY! THIS REALLY WON'T TAKE LONG
AFTER ALL I'M SURE BEING AN AMBASSADOR WILL SUIT YOU!
WHO KNOWS! YOU MIGHT EVEN ENJOY IT
NOW SIT BACK AND TAKE IT LIKE A MAN!





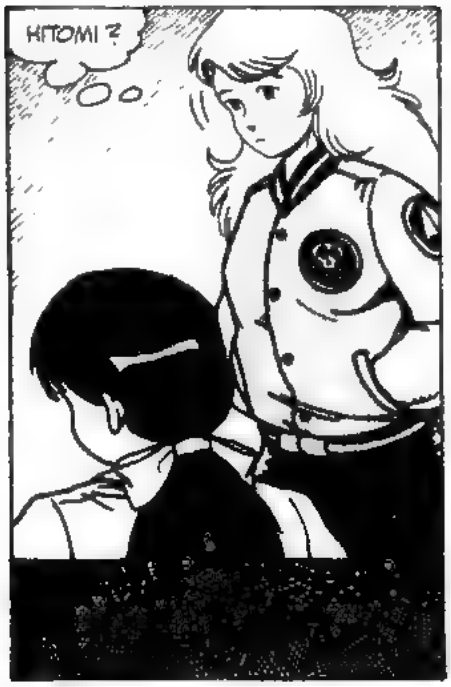
:SIGH:
WHERE COULD JEREMY BE?
HE'S REALLY LATE!

THIS NOTE HE WROTE ME SAID HE WAS GOING TO MEET ME HERE! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT JEREMY WOULD STAND ME UP!
ICHI KUN ALWAYS SPOKE HIGHLY ABOUT HIS HONESTY! HAS ALL OF THIS BEEN A SET-UP?

BOY! THAT WOULD REALLY BURN ME IF THAT GUY WAS LYING TO ME!

BUT WHAT IF HE IS COMING? PERHAPS HE'S BEEN DELAYED! THAT COULD BE IT! MAYBE HE'S ON HIS WAY OVER RIGHT NOW!

I'LL WAIT JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES...


HITOMI?

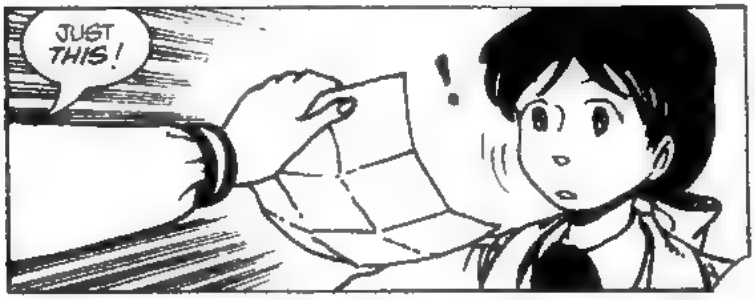
HITOMI?

FUJIKO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHY, WAITING FOR JEREMY, OF COURSE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? YOU'RE NOT MUSCLING INTO MY TERRITORY!

YOUR TERRITORY? HAH!
IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL GET ME JEREMY!

OH, AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE, FUJIKO?
DIG! DIG!


JUST THIS!
!

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS?
A NOTE FROM JEREMY TO MEET ME IN THE PARK!
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, HITOMI?

WAIT A MINUTE

LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT?!
REVEAL!

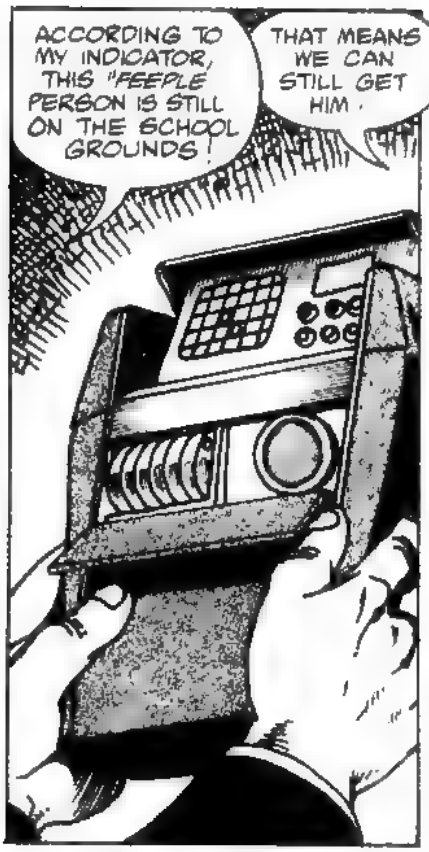
THIS CAN'T BE FOR REAL!
BUT IT IS! THE EXACT SAME NOTE! SOMEONE HAS PLAYED A PRETTY CLEVER TRICK!

OBVIOUSLY, WHOEVER DID THIS WANTED US OUT OF THE WAY FOR SOME PURPOSE!
THE BIG QUESTIONS ARE WHO AND WHY?

WELL IT COULDN'T BE ONE OF US SINCE WE WERE BOTH TRICKED!
LET'S TRY TO THINK OF WHO IT MIGHT BE!

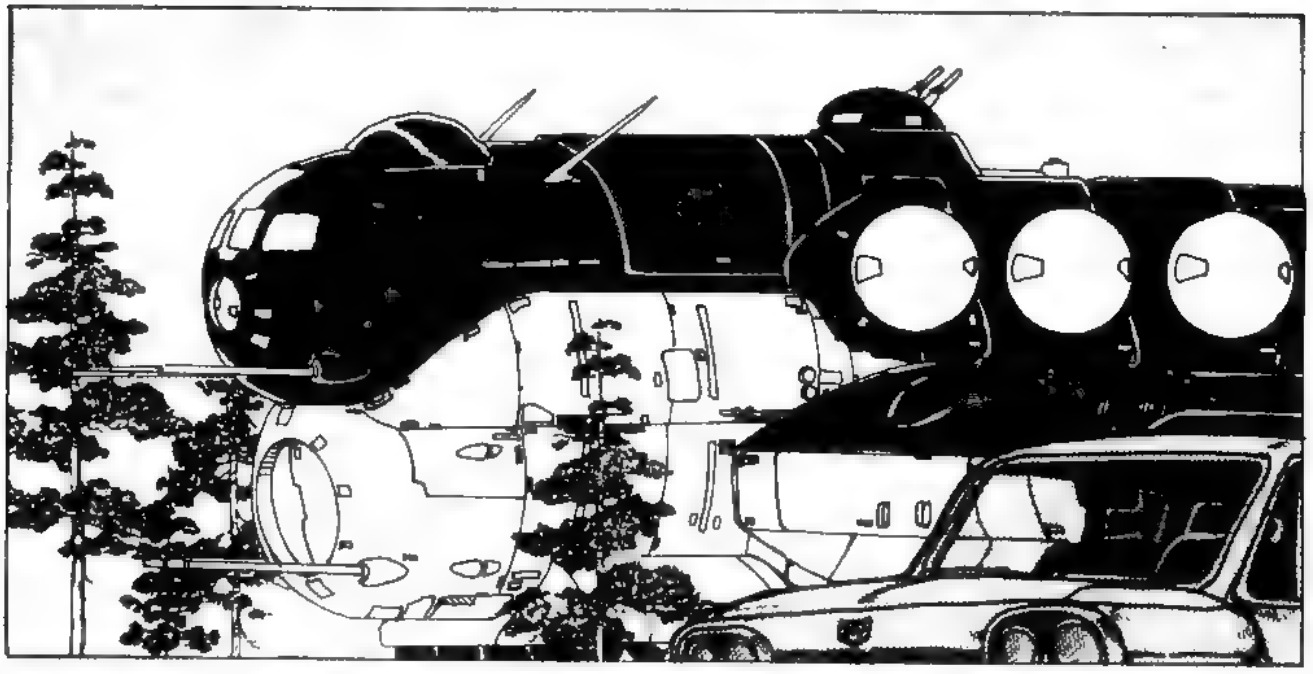
THINK
THINK
THINK
THINK

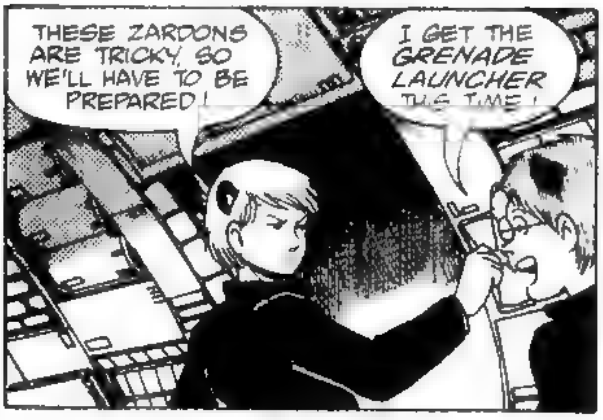
LEEANNA!

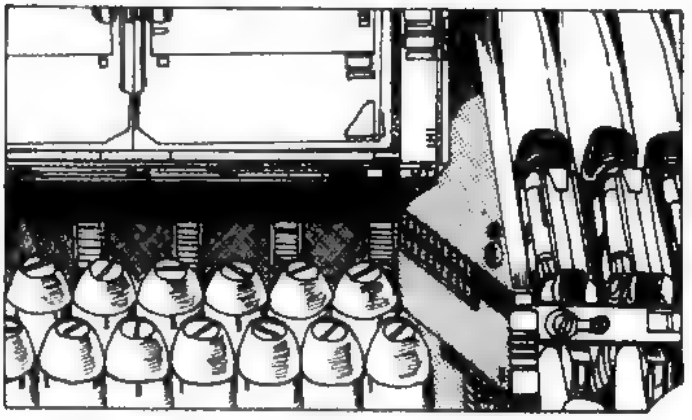

ACCORDING TO MY INDICATOR, THIS "FEEPLE PERSON IS STILL ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS!
THAT MEANS WE CAN STILL GET HIM.

WHERE IS HE NOW JAKAZ
ACCORDING TO THIS, HE'S IN THE GYM STOREROOM, BAKA!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S WITH SOMEONE ELSE. AND BY THESE READINGS, IT'S A ZARDON!

WE'D BETTER HURRY, THEN! WHO KNOWS WHAT FIENDISH THING THAT ZARDON IS DOING TO HIM!
BACK TO THE SHIP
RUN!!




THESE ZARDONS ARE TRICKY, SO WE'LL HAVE TO BE PREPARED!
I GET THE GRENADE LAUNCHER THIS TIME!



O.K., MEN! THIS IS IT! IT'LL BE DANGEROUS!
SOME OF US MAY NOT SURVIVE.. BUT WE'RE SALUSIANS!
IT'S OUR DUTY TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OUR CONGLOMERATE!
I'M HUNGRY
NOW LET'S GO KICK BUTT!
CAN WE EAT AFTERWARDS?
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! WE'LL BREAK FOR DINNER AFTER WE GET THIS FEEPLE GUY, NEGTOR!
NOW DON'T FORGET TO LOCK THE DOOR!
CHARGE!
HUP TWO! HUP TWO! HUP TWO!

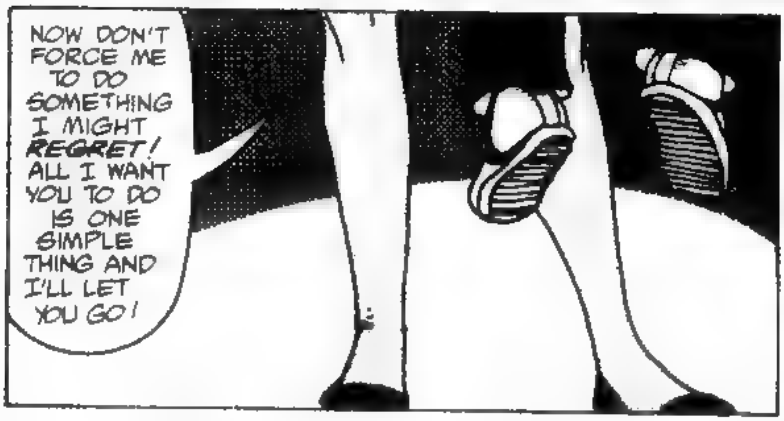
WHAT KIND OF GUY DO YOU THINK I AM?
I WON'T DO IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GALS ARE UP TO, BUT IT WON'T WORK! I'VE ABOUT HAD ENOUGH OF THESE MIND GAMES!

GRRRRRR
!

ALL RIGHT THEN! YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW! I WANT YOU TO BE MY SPOUSE! DOES THAT CLARIFY THINGS FOR YOU?!
YOU MAY NOT REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH A THING

BUT I'LL SAY ONE THING. IF YOU DON'T DO AS I SAY.. I'LL MAKE SURE THAT ASRIAL DOESN'T HAVE YOU!
ASRIAL?


NOW DON'T FORCE ME TO DO SOMETHING I MIGHT REGRET! ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS ONE SIMPLE THING AND I'LL LET YOU GO!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KISS MY FOREHEAD!

OTHERWISE, YOU MIGHT FIND THAT YOU'LL LOSE MORE THAN YOUR PRIDE!

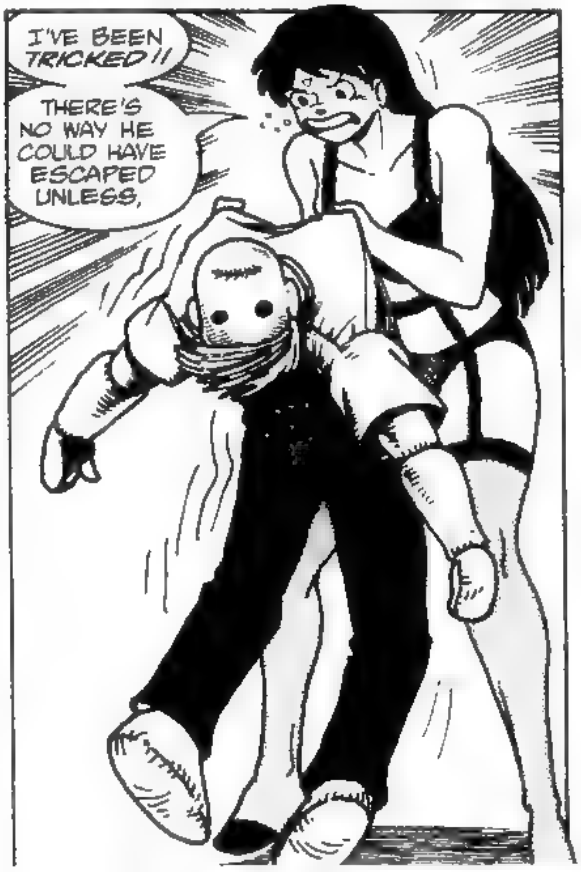
UNNNH!

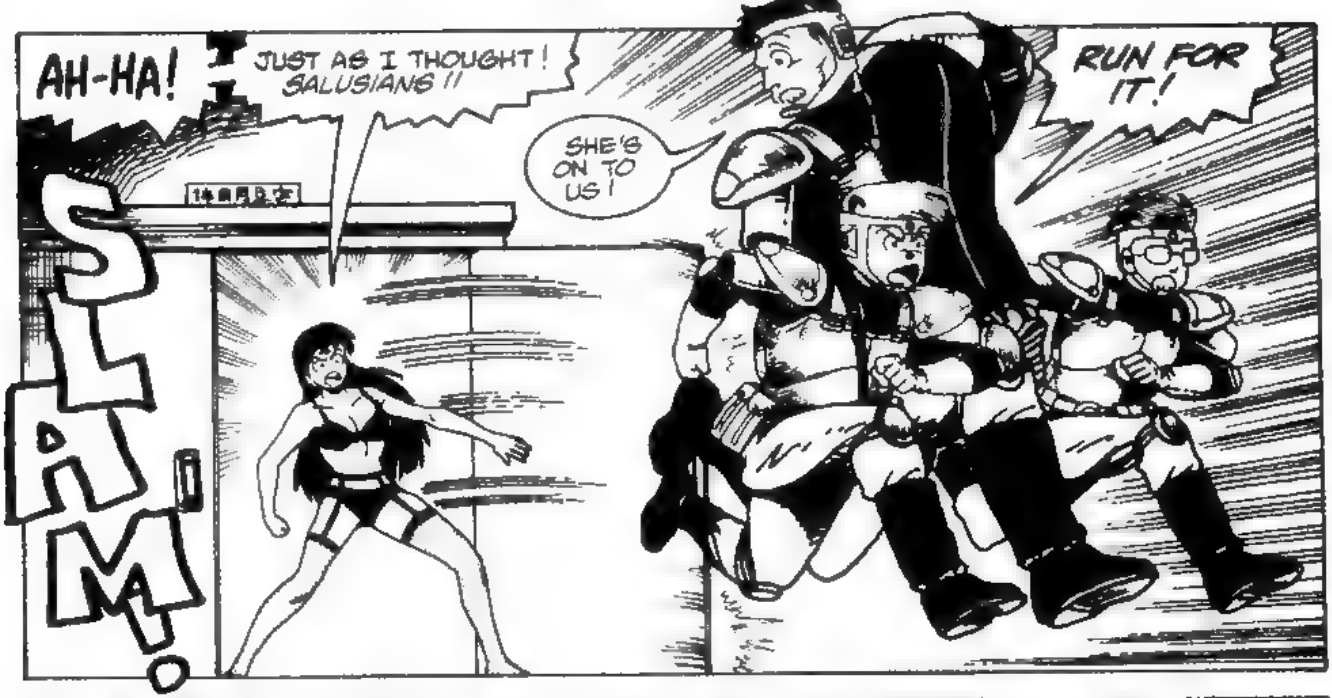
OKAY! OKAY! I'LL DO IT!
NOW YOU'RE LISTENING TO REASON.

AT LAST! THIS PLANET WILL BE IN MY GRASP! ASRIAL WILL BE DISGRACED!

ONCE HE KISSES MY ROYAL EMBLEM, HE WILL BE UNDER MY COMPLETE CONTROL!
IT WILL MEAN THE END OF THE SALUSIAN CONGLOMERATE!
WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG?

WHAT!?!


I'VE BEEN TRICKED!!
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED UNLESS,


AH-HA!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! SALUSIANS!!
SLAM!
SHE'S ON TO US!
RUN FOR IT!

WAIT A MINUTE, LEEANNA!

WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THESE NOTES WE FOUND IN OUR LOCKERS!
AND DON'T TRY TO DENY IT! WE KNOW YOU DID IT!

FOOLS!!
BLAST!
I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON YOU BOTH!

WOMF!

STUPID WENCH!
YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR A ZARDON OF IMPERIAL BIRTH!

TUMP!
TUMP!

Dead Silence
?!

BLAST IT! I LOST THEM! THAT DELAY ALLOWED THEM TO ESCAPE!

EH? IT'S PROFESSOR STEAMHEAD'S ACTUALIZER

WELL THIS GIVES ME AN IDEA!

THAT LEEANNA IS MORE CLEVER THAN I THOUGHT!
WE MUST STOP HER BEFORE SHE GETS A HOLD OF JEREMY!
GEE! WHAT A WALLOP!

WHAT IS WITH YOU AND THIS GUY, ANYWAYS?
I MEAN, HE'S ALL YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT SINCE HE ARRIVED HERE!

SINCE YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, FUJIKO, I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY... THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MY SISTER ICHI KUN AND I WERE REALLY CLOSE! I MEAN WE WERE *INSEPARABLE!*

SINCE WE WERE ONLY ABOUT A YEAR APART, WE BOTH SHARED A REALLY WONDERFUL RELATION!
IT WAS A TIME WHEN WE BOTH DIDN'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD!

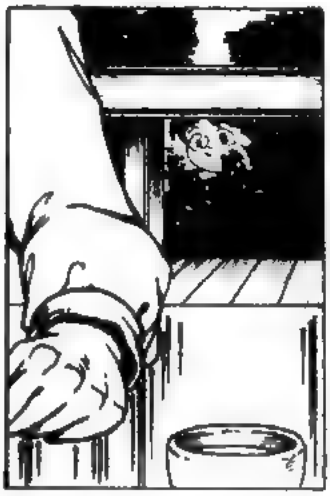
"WE MADE A PROMISE TO EACH OTHER..."
THROUGH THICK AND THIN, THROUGH BAD AND GOOD, WE SHALL STICK TOGETHER AS GOOD NINJAS SHOULD!
"I FELT THAT NOTHING COULD SPLIT US APART! NOTHING!

"UNTIL HE SHOWED UP!"

THEN IT IS AGREED! WHEN BOTH ICHI KUN AND JEREMY ARE OF AGE, WE WILL HAVE THEM MARRIED!
THUS THEY WILL TIE OUR FAMILIES TOGETHER BY BLOOD!

IN THE MEANTIME, ICHI KUN WILL STAY HERE TO BE EDUCATED FOR THE ROLE OF CLAN LEADER!

AND WHEN WILL YOU WANT ICHI KUN TO MOVE IN WITH YOU?
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! EARLY TRAINING IS VERY IMPORTANT!



HITOMI! WHERE WERE YOU? LET'S GO PLAY SOME MORE!
NO!

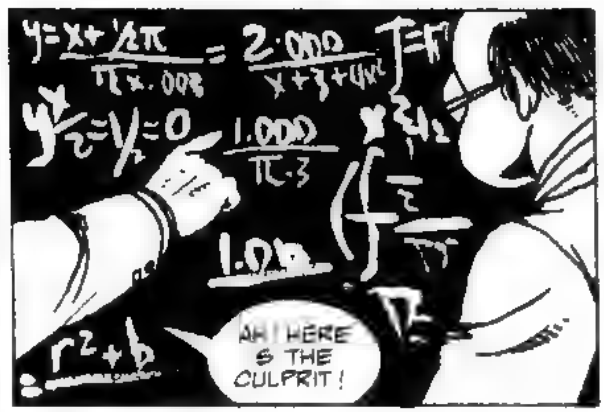
NO?
WHY NOT?

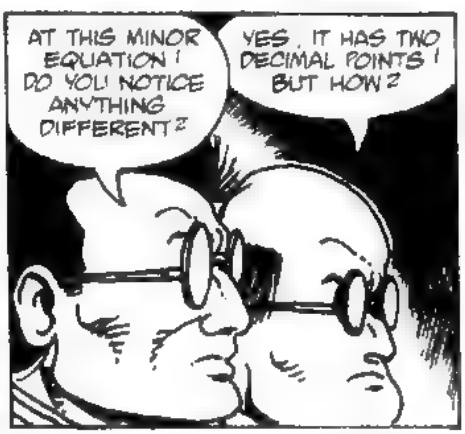
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME!!
YOU'RE GOING TO BREAK YOUR PROMISE TO ME!
LEAVE YOU?

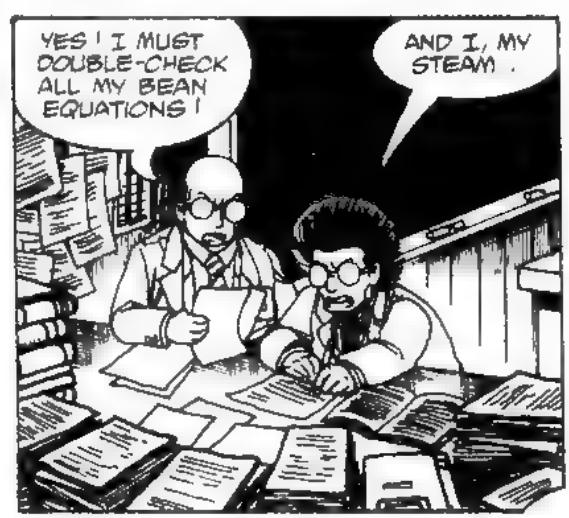
DON'T BE SILLY, HITOMI! YOU KNOW I WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU FOR ANYTHING!

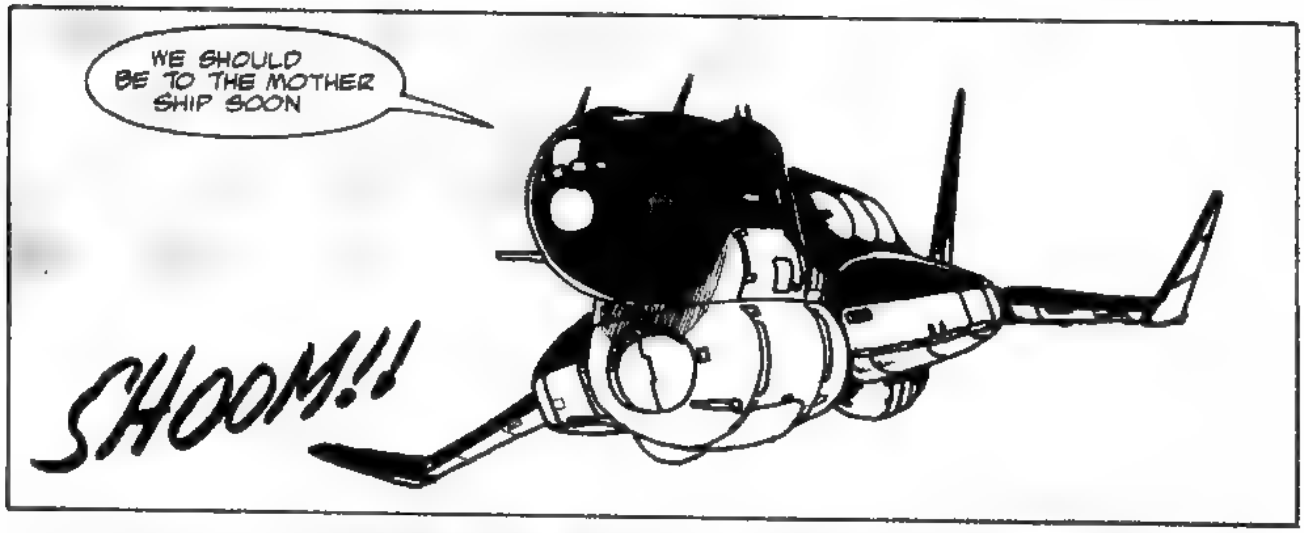
YOU PROMISE?
OF COURSE! NINJA'S HONOR!

"OF COURSE, SHE DID LEAVE ME AND I WAS PRETTY DARNED MIFFED! HOW COULD SHE HAVE DONE THIS TO ME? SHE BROKE A PROMISE! THAT'S WHY I NEED TO GET HOLD OF JEREMY! IF I CAN CONVINCE HIM NOT TO MARRY ICHI KUN THEN MAYBE SHE'LL GIVE UP HER DREAM OF BECOMING CLAN LEADER."



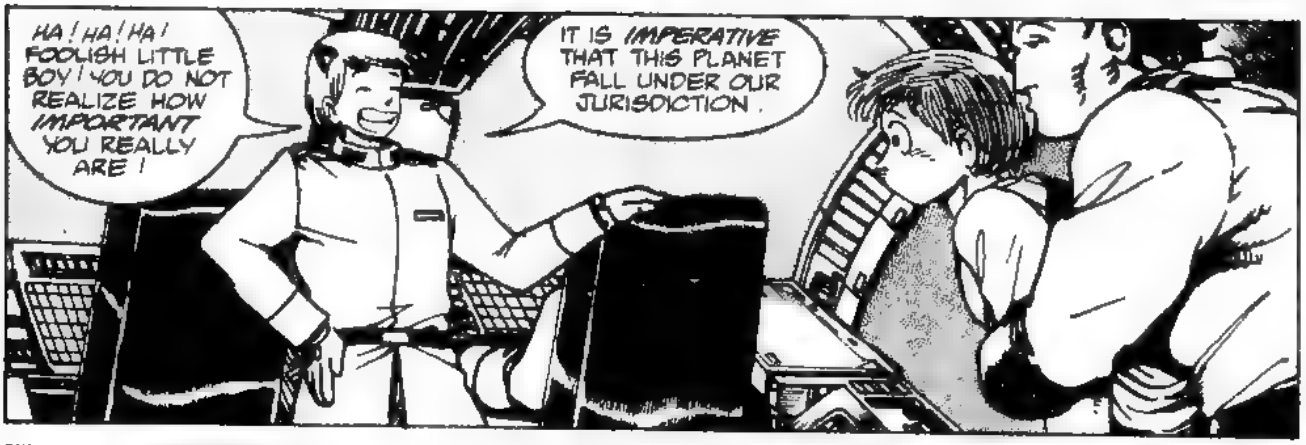





WE SHOULD BE TO THE MOTHER SHIP SOON
SHOOM!!

EXCELLENT, NESTOR! NOW WE SHALL TAKE THIS FEEPLE PERSON AND CONVERT HIM TO OUR GLORIOUS WAYS!

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
I SEE OUR LITTLE EARTHLING IS AWAKE!


HA! HA! HA! FOOLISH LITTLE BOY! YOU DO NOT REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT YOU REALLY ARE!
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THIS PLANET FALL UNDER OUR JURISDICTION.

THEREFORE, YOU MUST MARRY A CITIZEN OF OUR CONGLOMERATE IN ORDER TO START A DIPLOMATIC RELATION!
IN FACT WE ARE SENDING A MESSAGE TO YOUR FUTURE BRIDE EVEN AS WE SPEAK!
YOU LUCKY GUY YOU!

.....

NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

TAKE HIM AWAY, BAKA!

HEH! LITTLE DOES HE REALIZE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THIS MISSION WILL GET ME A PROMOTION!

PERHAPS EVEN A COMMISSION!

HEY! I MIGHT EVEN MAKE GENERAL! HEY, MAYBE I'LL HAVE SAVED THE WHOLE CONGLOMERATE AND THEY'LL MAKE ME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF!

OR MAYBE THIS MISSION WAS SO IMPORTANT THEY'LL MAKE ME THE EMPEROR!

MAYBE THE WHOLE FATE OF THE SALUSIAN RACE RESTS WITH ME!

IN THAT CASE THEY CAN ONLY MAKE ME GOD--EMPEROR OF SALUSIA!!

OH, NO!

SCANNERS INDICATE AN OBJECT COMING IN FROM THE REAR!

LOOK OUT!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT COULD IT BE?

I DUNNO! IT'S COMING IN FAST!

PREPARE THE SHIP'S DEFENSE SYSTEMS!

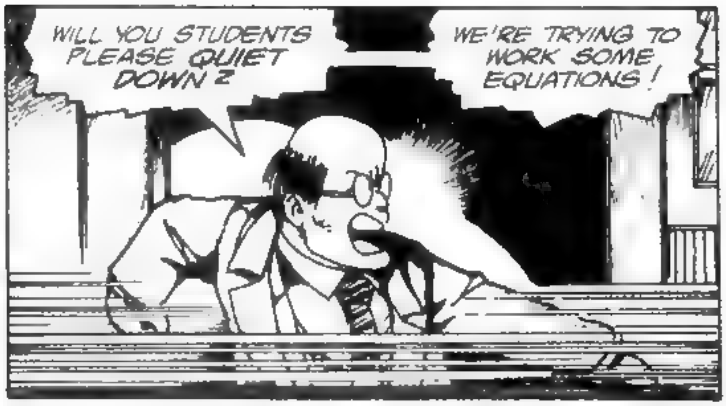
TOO LATE!

GAG!
OH SHOOT!
FULL SPEED AHEAD!
POM! POW! PO
WHOM!
YYYAAAAAHHH!

YAAAAAAAAAA
HA! HA! THAT'LL TEACH THEM TO TRIFLE WITH ME!
WITH THIS MACHINE I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT!
A ZARDON IS A MATCH FOR ANY SALUSIAN!
NOW A FEW ADJUSTMENTS AND I'LL HAVE A DUPLICATE JEREMY UNDER MY CONTROL!
CHA-CLICK!
SNUG

FUJIKO! SOUND THE ROLL!
ALL RIGHT, GRLS! SOUND OFF!
MIKI HERE!
ASASHI HERE!
NUMURI HERE!
NOW I WANT YOU ALL TO RUN AS BACK-UP FOR ME!
TAKE CARE OF ANY GOONS THAT MIGHT INTERFERE!
BUT LEEANNA IS MINE!

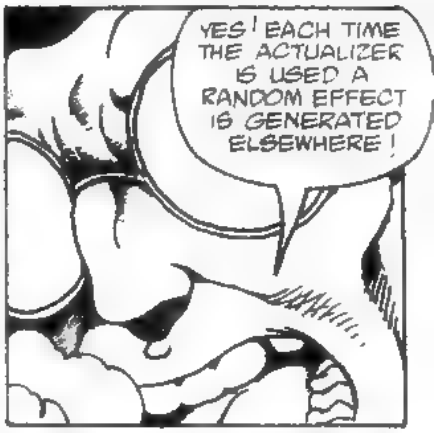
LET'S GO!!


WILL YOU STUDENTS PLEASE QUIET DOWN?
WE'RE TRYING TO WORK SOME EQUATIONS!

SOMETIMES THESE STUDENTS GET IN THE WAY OF MODERN SCIENCE!
NO TIME TO COMPLAIN! WE MUST FINISH THE LAST OF OUR RE-CALCULATIONS!

YES! THIS WAS WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!
WHAT?

THE RANDOM EFFECTS FIELD EQUATION WAS COMPLETELY OFF BASE!
YOU MEAN..?


YES! EACH TIME THE ACTUALIZER IS USED A RANDOM EFFECT IS GENERATED ELSEWHERE!

UH-OH! LOOK WHAT SHE DID TO THE HALLWAY!
WELL, SHE'S THE ONE THAT'S GETTING INTO TROUBLE! NOT US!

LOOK OUT!!
HISSSSS!
F-F-F-I-SHHHH
KRAPUM

MY GIRL COMMANDOS OUGHT TO KEEP 'EM BUSY. I'VE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS!
OH YOU WANT TROUBLE TOO!
OH JEREMY

OH, DRAT!!
JEREMY

I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO DRAW HIM CORRECTLY!
BUT I'LL GET IT RIGHT OR ELSE!
KRUMPLE!

I THINK YOU HAVE SOME OTHER PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW!
OH, IT'S YOU! SOMEHOW I EXPECTED YOU TO SHOW UP!

YOU'VE BEEN VERY MYSTERIOUS EVER SINCE YOU ARRIVED AT SCHOOL! I WANT SOME ANSWERS AS TO WHY YOU TRICKED ME AND WHY YOU WANT JEREMY SO BADLY!

YOU IGNORANT EARTH CHILD! HOW DARE YOU QUESTION THE MOTIVES OF A ZARDONIAN PRINCESS!
PAY FOR YOUR INSOLENCE!

JUMP!!
WAM!

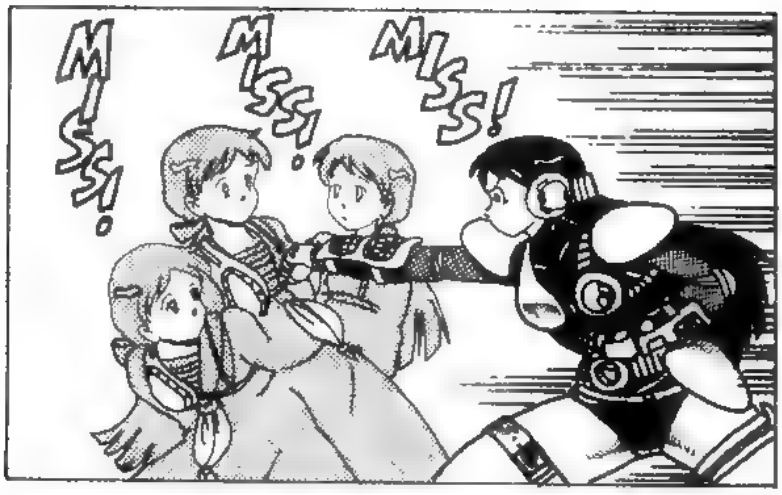
BALANCE....

GET OFF!
SHAKE! SHAKE!

FACE IT LEEANNA! YOU CAN'T BEAT ME!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO
MISS!!

I CAN OUT-MANEUVER YOU!
MISS AGAIN!!


MISS!
MISS!
MISS!

SEE! I TOLD YOU SO!
GASP!

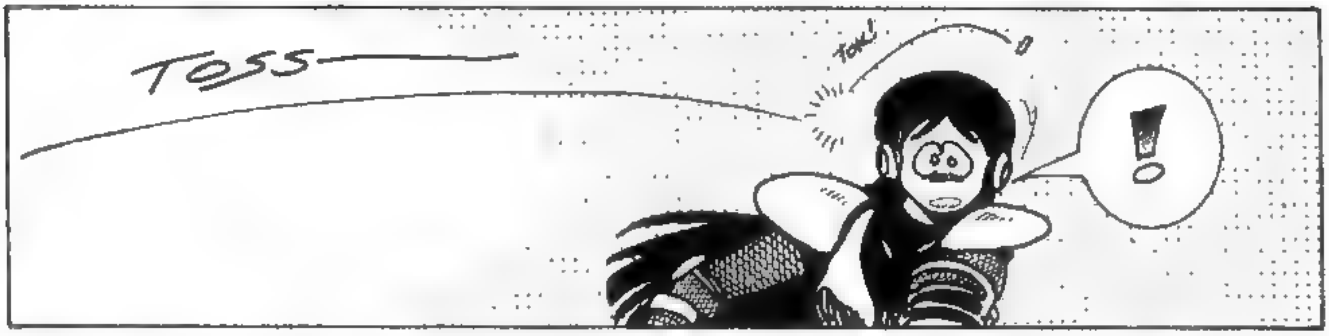
NEVER!!

NOW FEEL MY POWER!

YOUR PUNY SKILLS ARE NO MATCH FOR ME!
PUM!

HA! DID YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU COULD PREVENT ME FROM COMPLETING MY MISSION?

SOON IT WILL BE ALL OVER FOR YOU!
CHA-KLIK!!


TOSS——
TOK!
!

BREAKING THE NEUTRALITY OF A PLANET IS A NO-NO!
NO! IT CAN'T BE!

AH, BUT IT IS, LEEANNA!
IT'S ME!

NINJA HIGH SCHOOL

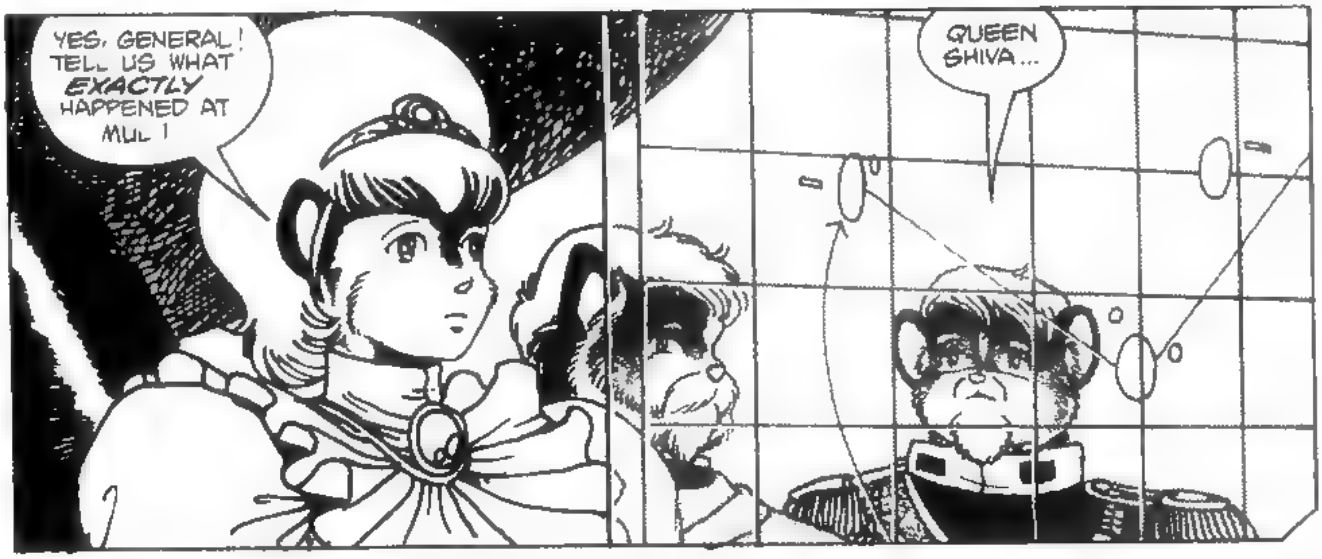
STORY / ART
BEN DUNN
LETTERING
CLEM ROBINS
EDITED BY
CHRIS ULM

"Diplomatic Impunity"

IN THE MUSTELIDEAN GALAXY LIES THE PLANET SALUSIA THE SEAT OF POWER OF THE INTERSTELLAR CONGLOMERATE!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
HOW DO YOU THINK THE KING AND QUEEN WILL TAKE THIS NEWS, GENERAL MEPHITUS?
NOT VERY WELL, I'M AFRAID
HOW WOULD YOU TAKE SUCH INFORMATION COLONEL SPILOGALE?
YES I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
I JUST HOPE THEY'RE IN A GOOD MOOD!
SUSSHAH!

AH! GENERAL! I TRUST YOU BRING GOOD NEWS FROM THE BATTLE FRONT!
NOW TELL US! DON'T KEEP US WAITING!

I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT GOOD NEWS, SIR
THE PLANET MUL FELL TO A STRONG ZARDONIAN ATTACK FLEET WE MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITH A THIRD OF OUR DEFENDING SHIPS INTACT!
WHAT? HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?!


YES, GENERAL! TELL US WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED AT MUL!
QUEEN SHIVA...

"AS YOU KNOW, OUR FLEET HAS BEEN ABLE TO HOLD THE LINE AGAINST THE ZARDONS FOR MANY YEARS! THE DEFENSE FLEET FOR MUL WAS MINIMAL BECAUSE OF THE SURROUNDING ASTEROID FIELDS THAT USUALLY PREVENTED FIGHTERS AND LARGE FLEET SHIPS FROM ENTERING!

"BUT THE ZARDONS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BYPASS THAT DEFENSE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THEIR NEW, HEAVY ARMORED MOBILE SUITS!"

THE ATTACK WAS SO *SUDDEN* THAT MANY OF OUR SHIPS DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE!

THOSE ABLE TO COUNTER-ATTACK FOUGHT VERY BRAVELY, BUT WERE QUICKLY *OVER-WHELMED!*

MANY VALIANT SALUSIANS *PERISHED.*

I MOURN THEIR LOSS, BUT THEY HAVE NOT DIED IN VAIN!

THEY HAVE BOUGHT US PRECIOUS *TIME!* TIME TO RE-ORGANIZE!

YES! ALREADY THE REST OF THE CONGLOMERATE BRINGS THEIR FLEETS TO MEET THE ZARDON THREAT! SOON WE SHALL BE *INVINCIBLE!*

FORGIVE ME, KING JERKA, BUT AGAINST THIS NEW WEAPON WE SHALL NOT LAST LONG! THE NEW HEAVY ARMOR SUIT PROVIDES ASTONISHING *MOBILITY* AND IS ABLE TO CARRY TREMENDOUS *FIREPOWER!*

I DOUBT WE HAVE ANYTHING THAT CAN MATCH IT!

HA! WE SHALL MEET THIS THREAT!

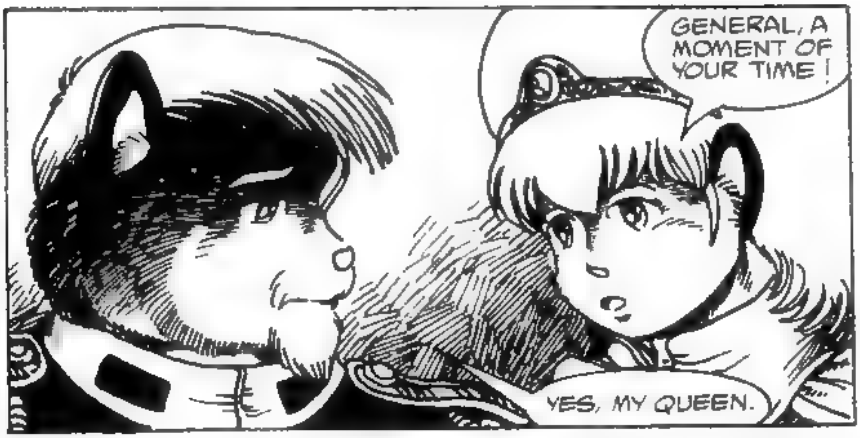
THE ZARDONS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CONQUER THE SALUSIANS FOR 300 YEARS AND HAVE *FAILED* IN EVERY ATTEMPT!

WE WILL *NEVER* BE DEFEATED!!!

BUT WHAT SHALL WE DO, SIR?

WE WILL BUILD! BUILD MORE SHIPS! BUILD MORE FLEETS! SOON WE SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY OUR ENEMY!

NOTHING SHALL STOP US!



YOU MUST FORGIVE MY HUSBAND! HE STILL DROWNS HIMSELF IN GRAND DELUSIONS OF VICTORY I, ON THE OTHER HAND, REALIZE THE SITUATION OUR CONGLOMERATION IS IN

THEN YOU MUST ALSO REALIZE THE *DANGER*

IF I MAY BE SO BOLD AS TO BE PERMITTED TO SPEAK IT IS *IMPERATIVE* THAT ALL OUR RESOURCES BE PUT TOGETHER TO MEET THIS NEW ZARDON THREAT! NOT SPENT *NEEDLESSLY* ON BIGGER, MORE USELESS FLEET SHIPS!

EVERY DAY WE DELAY IN NOT DEVELOPING OUR OWN MOBILE SUIT WEAPONS MEANS ANOTHER SALUSIAN LOSS!

YOUR CONVICTIONS ARE *STRONG*, GENERAL.

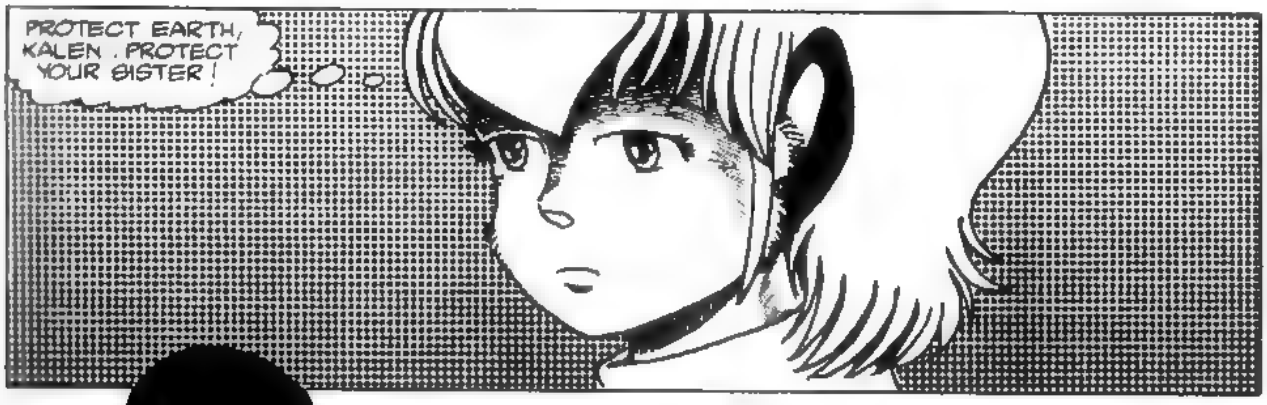
A MAN LIKE YOU IS JUST THE TYPE OF LEADER NEEDED TO HEAD THIS PROJECT!

DO WHAT YOU CAN! ANYTHING YOU NEED, YOU WILL GET!

THANK YOU MY QUEEN
OH, AND GENERAL.

CONTACT KALEN THE PIRATE HIRE HIM TO SAFE-GUARD THE PLANET EARTH FROM ANY POSSIBLE ZARDON ATTACK! PAY WHATEVER PRICE NECESSARY!

AT ONCE MY QUEEN!


PROTECT EARTH, KALEN. PROTECT YOUR SISTER!

SO! AT LAST YOU'VE DECIDED TO SHOW YOUR COWARDLY FACE TO ME, ABRIAL!

WELL, LEEANNA, TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU! I RECEIVED A SALUSIAN RECALL SIGNAL ON MY CAR RADIO AND FOLLOWED IT HERE!

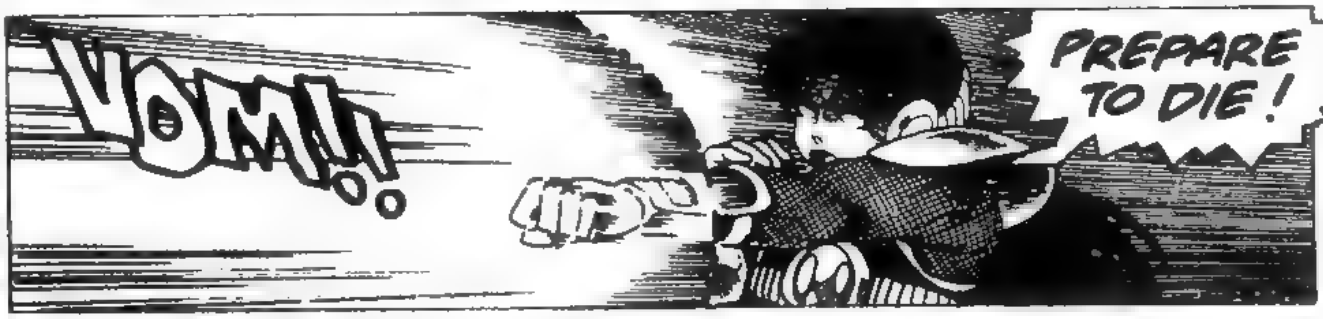
MEETING YOU WAS THE LAST THING ON MY MIND!
AFTER ALL, YOU ARE THE DAUGHTER OF MY FATHER'S WORST ENEMY!

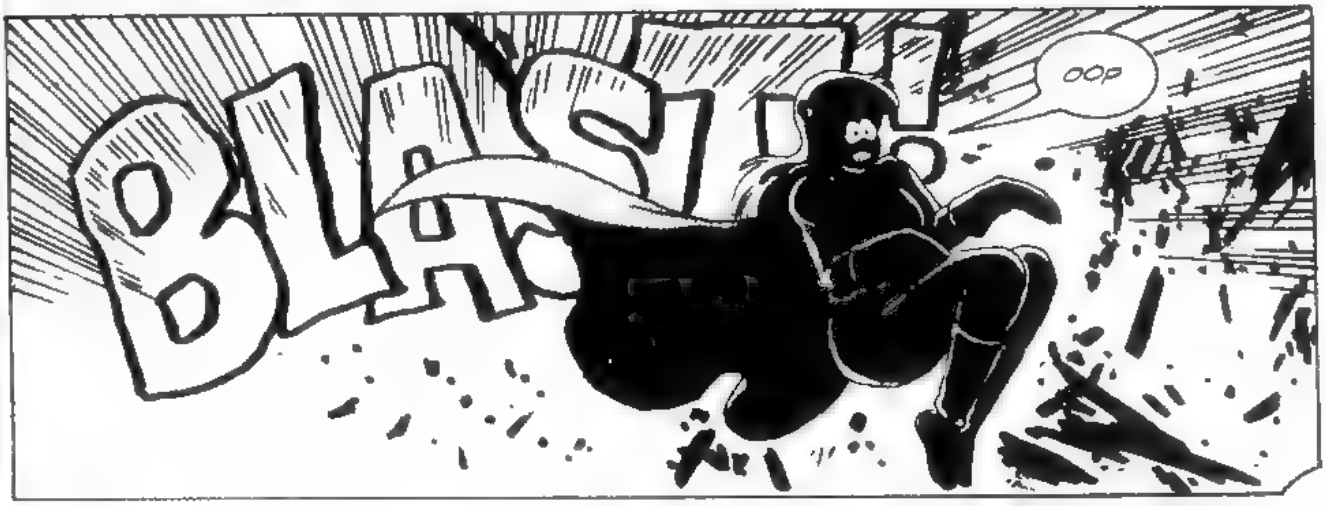
A ZARDON NEED NOT EXPLAIN A THING TO ANY SALUSIAN SCUM! EVEN ONE OF ROYALTY! SUFFICE TO SAY, WE SHALL TAKE THIS PITIFUL PLANET!
YOU ZARDONS ALWAYS WERE A PITIFUL LOT! TRYING TO INVADE EVERYTHING THAT SUITS YOUR FANCY! AT LEAST WE SALUSIANS DON'T HAVE TO STOOP TO MERE CONQUEST TO MAKE FRIENDS!

BUT THEN THAT'S SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER KNOW!

BAH! FRIENDS! WHO NEEDS THEM!
ALL THEY WANT IS TO LEECH OFF YOU THEY ONLY SERVE TO HINDER YOU!

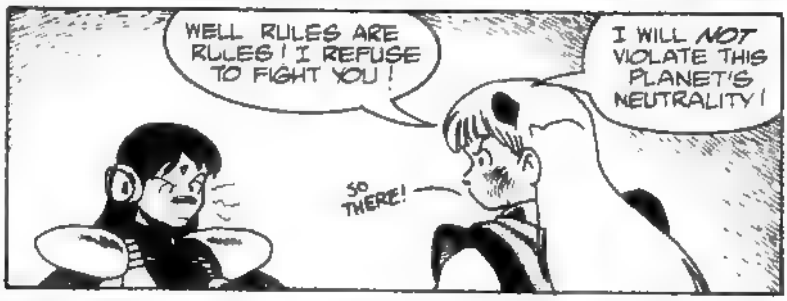
FRIENDS ARE ONLY FOR THE WEAK!
YOU DISAPPOINT ME, ASRIAL! I HAD HEARD HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, BUT YOU ARE NO BETTER THAN THESE SCUMMY EARTHLINGS!
BUT ENOUGH SMALL TALK!


VOM!!
PREPARE TO DIE!


BLAST!
OOP

NOW HOLD ON! EARTH IS STILL A NEUTRAL PLANET! YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT WE CAN'T FIGHT EACH OTHER HERE!

WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT THIS PLANET'S NEUTRALITY? THE ONLY THING THAT COUNTS IS TO SEE YOUR DEFEAT AND THE ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR CONGLOMERATE!


WELL RULES ARE RULES! I REFUSE TO FIGHT YOU!
I WILL NOT VIOLATE THIS PLANET'S NEUTRALITY!
SO THERE!

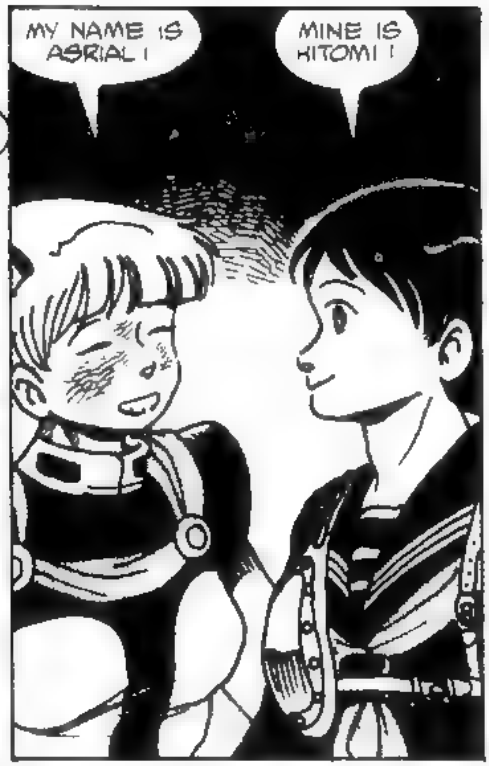
THEN I WILL!
!

WOP!!

THAT'S IN RETURN FOR BEING SUCH A JERK!
SMIK!

HMMM OUT COLD

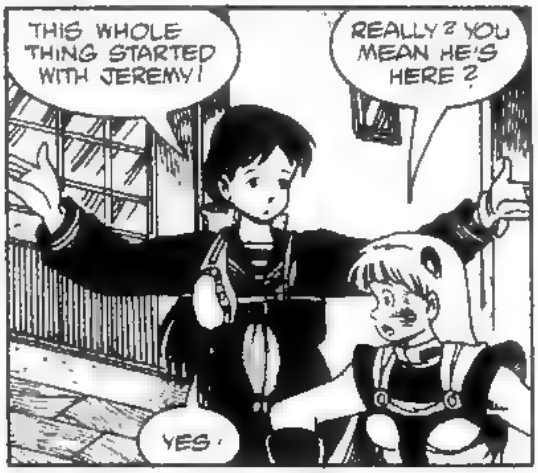
THOSE ZARDONS AREN'T SO TOUGH!
THANK YOU
SHE HAD IT COMING!


MY NAME IS ASRIAL!
MINE IS HITOMI!

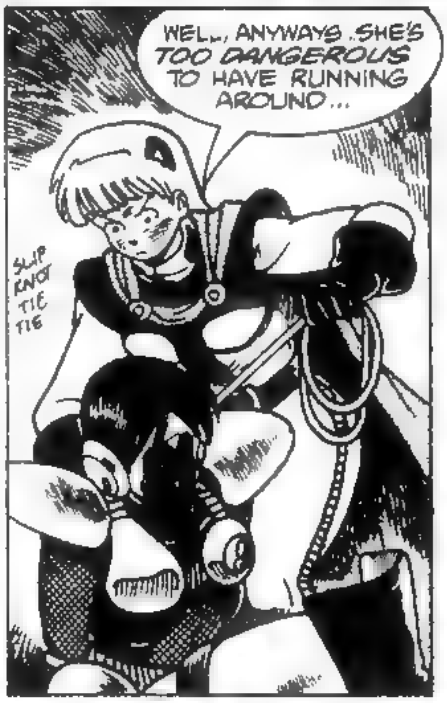
HITOMI?
YOU MUST BE ICHI'S LITTLE SISTER!

YES, BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I KNOW YOUR SISTER VERY WELL! THIS IS INDEED A SURPRISE! WHY JUST THIS MORNING WE WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU AND JEREMY.
JEREMY! OH, NO!


THIS WHOLE THING STARTED WITH JEREMY!
REALLY? YOU MEAN HE'S HERE?
YES.

THAT COULD EXPLAIN LEEANNA'S PRESENCE! OBVIOUSLY SHE INTENDED TO USE JEREMY AGAINST ME SOMEHOW!
BUT WHY?


WELL, ANYWAYS, SHE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO HAVE RUNNING AROUND...
SLIP KNOT TIE TIE

NOW LET'S TRY TO FIND JEREMY!

MEANWHILE, A HOP, SKIP AND A JUMP AWAY.

OHHHHH

WHAT HAPPENED ?

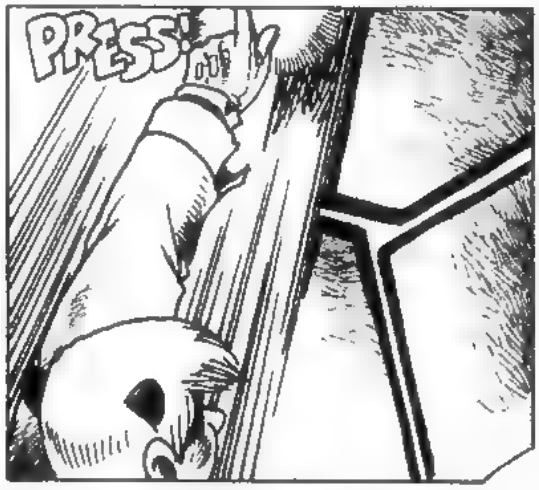
GET UP, YOU LAZY BUMS! ARE YOU GOING TO LET A LITTLE THING LIKE FALLING SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET SLOW YOU DOWN ?

WE MUST CHECK ON OUR CARGO!

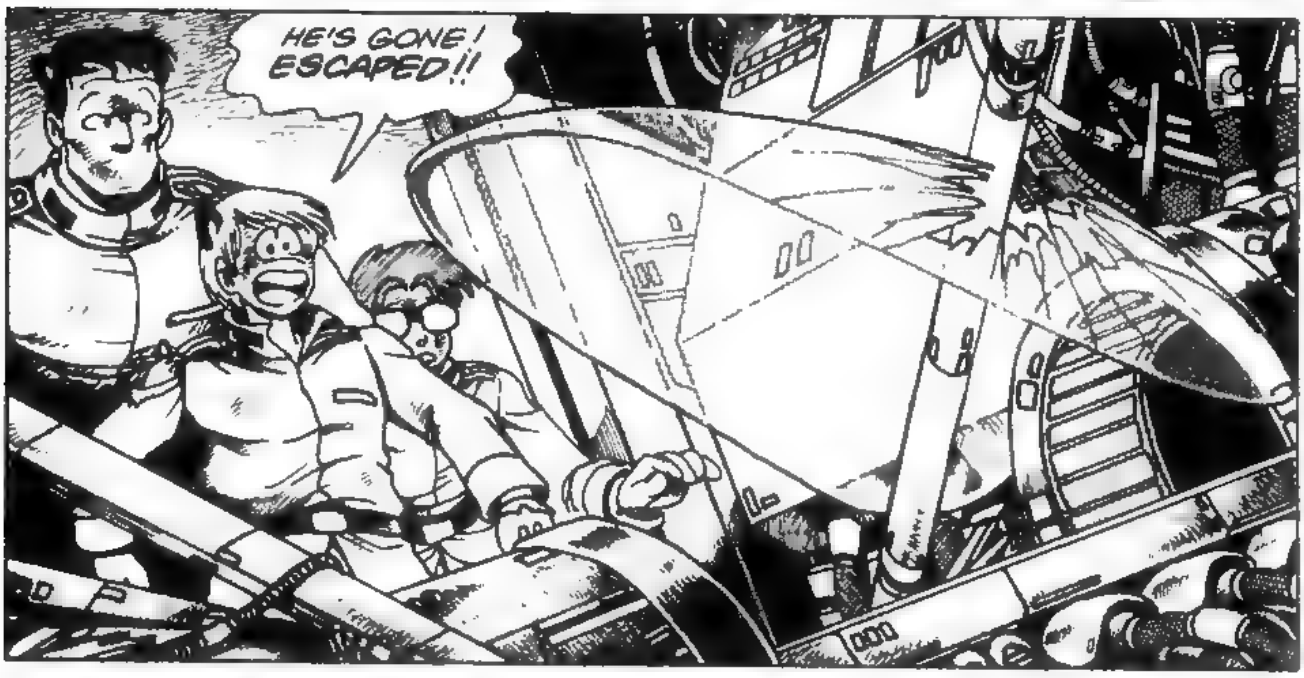
DID YOU PUT HIM IN THE TRANSFORMATION CHAMBER ?

YES ALL SHOULD HAVE GONE WELL!

LET'S HOPE SO!



OH NO!

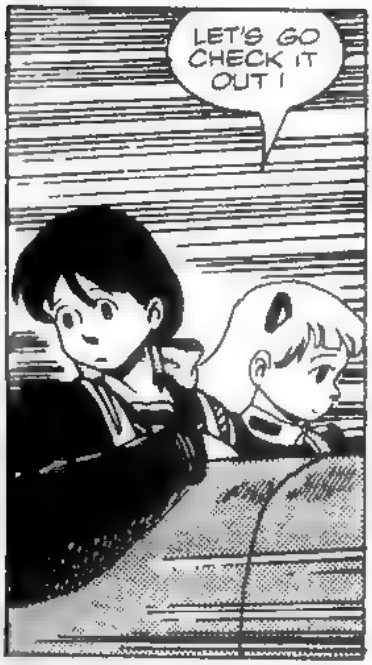

HE'S GONE! ESCAPED!!

QUICKLY, BAKA! GET NESTOR AND ORGANIZE A SEARCH PARTY! HE MUST BE RECOVERED AT ALL COSTS!

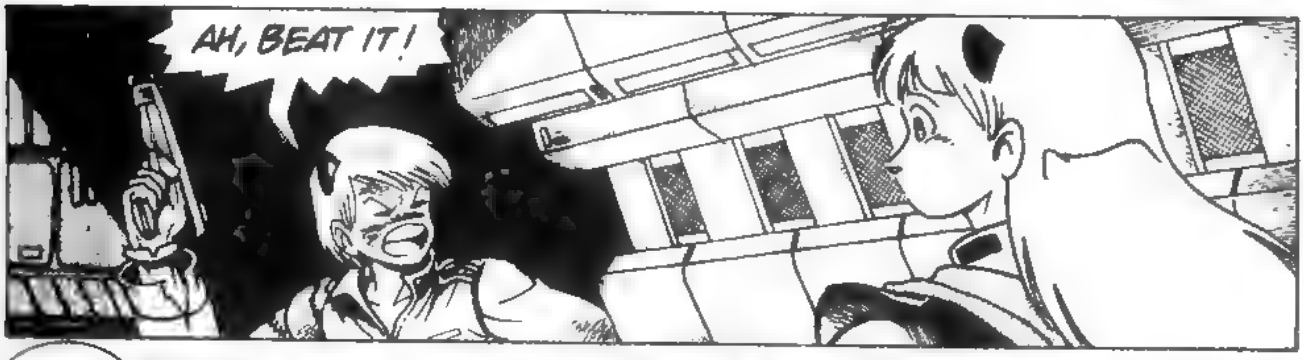
ALL HINGES ON HIS RECOVERY!

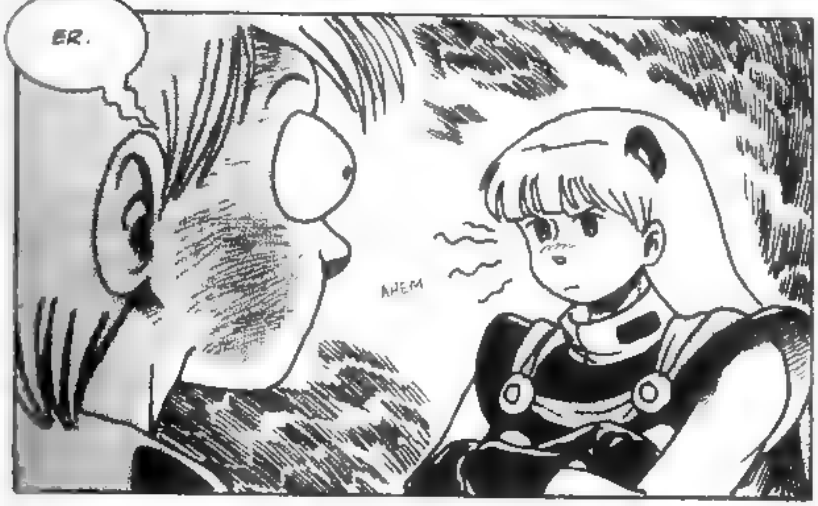
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?
NOPE. WAIT!
SHUM

LOOK OVER THERE!
YEP! LOOKS LIKE A SALUSIAN SCOUT SHIP!


LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!

HEY! ANYONE HERE?

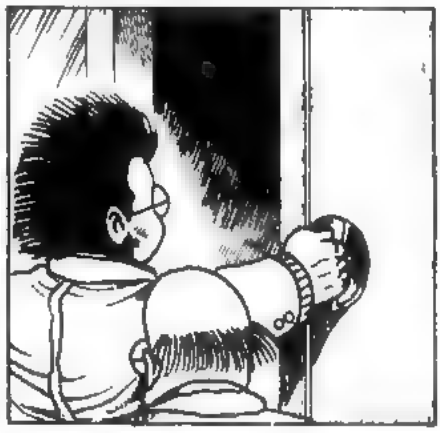

AH, BEAT IT!


ER.
AHEM

PRINCESS ASRIAL! FORGIVE ME! FORGIVE ME!
OH STOP IT!

EXPLAIN TO ME IN DETAIL WHAT IS GOING ON, AND DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING OUT!

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE SCHOOL
THEN IT IS AGREED! THE ACTUALIZER IS TOO DANGEROUS! IT MUST BE DISMANTLED!
YES! EVEN IF EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT, THE RANDOM FIELDS GENERATED WOULD CREATE HAVOC!



EH? WHAT'S THIS?

THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE COME! IT WAS AWFUL!
WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEONE TRIED TO STEAL YOUR INVENTION! THE THUGS CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD AND TIED ME UP!

NOTHING SEEMS TO BE MISSING! WHOEVER WAS HERE ONLY MOVED IT TO A NEW LOCATION!
HOW VERY ODD!

CRACKLE!
STUPID SCIENTISTS!! HOW GULLIBLE YOU ARE!

BOM!

MAKE A FOOL OF ME, WILL SHE?
I'LL SHOW HER!

SHE WILL RUE THE DAY SHE WAS BORN A SALUSIAN!!

SO THAT'S IT, HUH?
I CAN'T SEE HOW MARRYING JEREMY WILL SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS!

MERELY A DIPLOMATIC MOVE.. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF MY FATHER WAS BEHIND THIS!
PLEASE, ASRIAL! YOU MUST MARRY HIM!
ALL OF SALUSIA IS AT STAKE!

OH, DON'T BE SO MELODRAMATIC!
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS JEREMY?
YES! WHERE IS THAT SILLY BOY..

RIGHT HERE!

UHHH. I FEEL AWFUL!
JEREMY! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
OH, THIS? I DUNNO... I WAS PLACED IN A TUBE AND PUT TO SLEEP! WHEN I WOKE UP I WAS ALL *FURRY*
!
YOU PUT HIM IN THE *TRANSFORMATION CHAMBER*, DIDN'T YOU?
YES...
HOW *COULD* YOU?
CRINGE!
PRINCESS AGRIAL... WE HAD OUR ORDERS!
HUMPH
WELL I DON'T THINK IT WAS RIGHT TO TURN HIM INTO A SALUSIAN WITHOUT HIS CONSENT!
JEREMY... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
A BIT *QUEASY*.

I ..I WANT TO APOLOGIZE.
FOR WHAT, HITOMI?

IT'S MY FAULT THAT ALL THIS HAPPENED! ALL I WANTED WAS TO HAVE ICHI BACK!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU'RE ICHI'S SISTER!

I THOUGHT IF I COULD MAKE YOU REALIZE SHE WASN'T FOR YOU SHE WOULD RETURN.
I REALLY MISS HER!

HITOMI ICHI MISSES YOU TOO! BUT SHE HAS CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES! YOU CAN'T EXPECT HER TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING JUST LIKE THAT!
SOMETIMES IT TAKES A STRONG WILL TO CONTINUE TO LOVE SOMEONE EVEN WHEN THEY ARE NOT AROUND TO RETURN IT
YES, I UNDERSTAND.
BESIDES, SHE HASN'T FORGOTTEN YOU, OTHERWISE SHE WOULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN ALL THOSE LETTERS!

BRAVO! BRAVO!
SNIFF
CLAP!
CLAP!
CLAP!
CLAP!
CLAP!

JEREMY! YOU ARE INDEED A NOBLE PERSON!
WHO, ME? NAW! NOT ME! I JUST WANTED HITOMI TO KNOW THAT ICHI STILL REMEMBERS HER!

THANK YOU, JEREMY.
HUG!

WHEW

UH JEREMY, I'M AFRAID I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS!
WHAT IS IT?

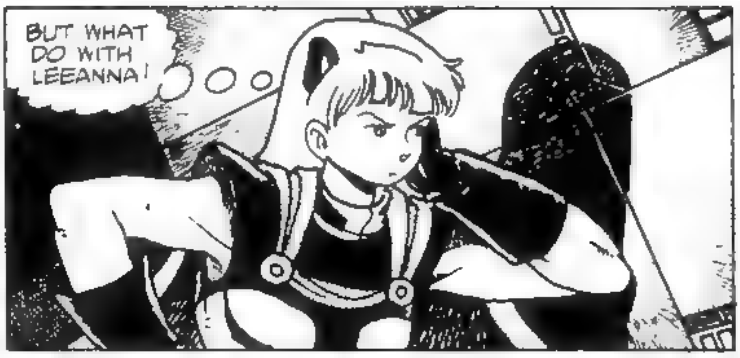
WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE YOU BACK.
WHY NOT?!

THE CRASH SEVERELY DAMAGED THE TRANSFORMATION UNIT! IT MAY BE BEYOND ANY HOPE OF REPAIR

GRRRRR..

SIGH
I SURE HOPE MOM UNDERSTANDS!

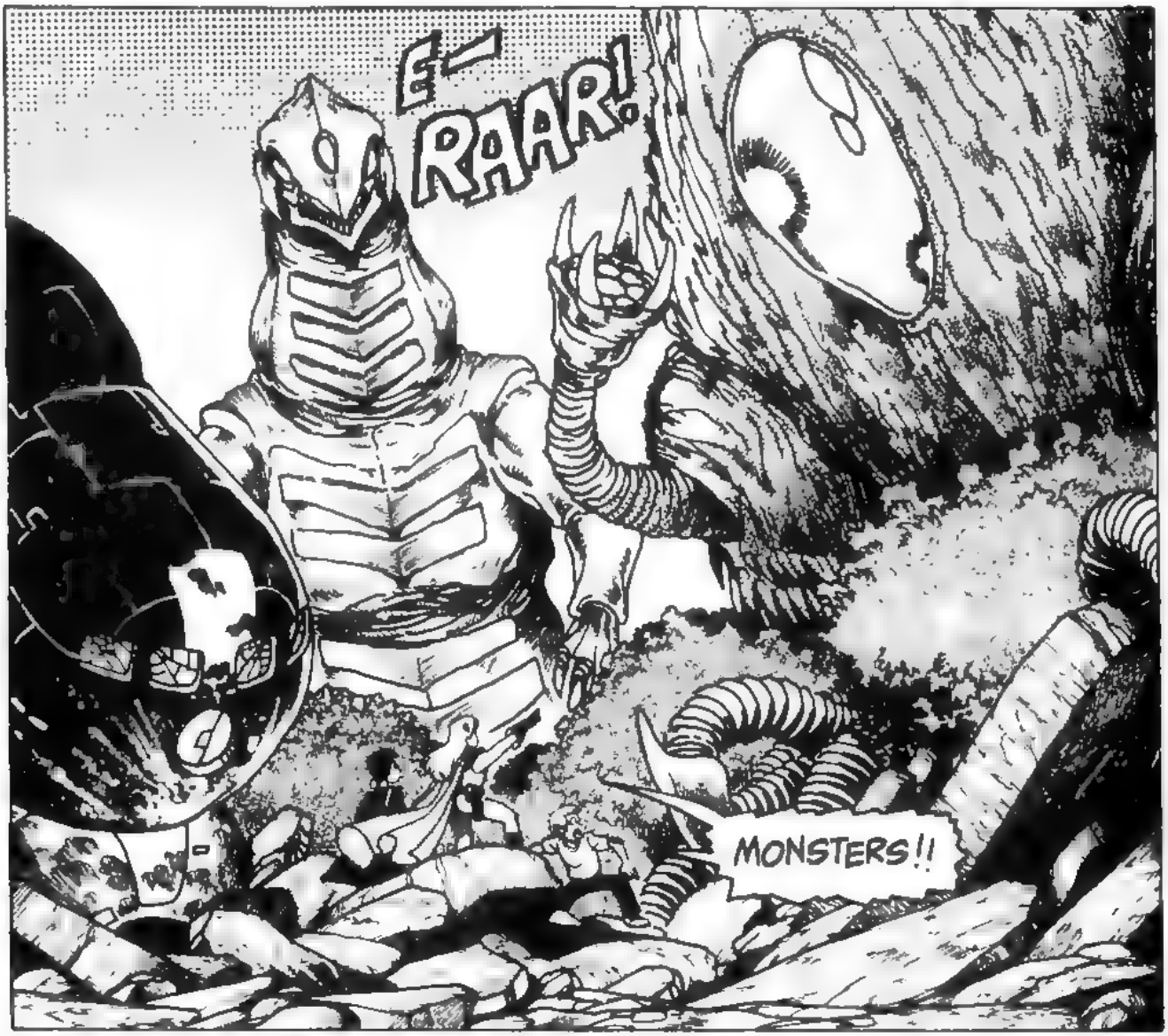
IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, WE ARE SORRY
THAT'S OKAY I COULD PROBABLY GET USED TO IT IN TIME
RUB! RUB!

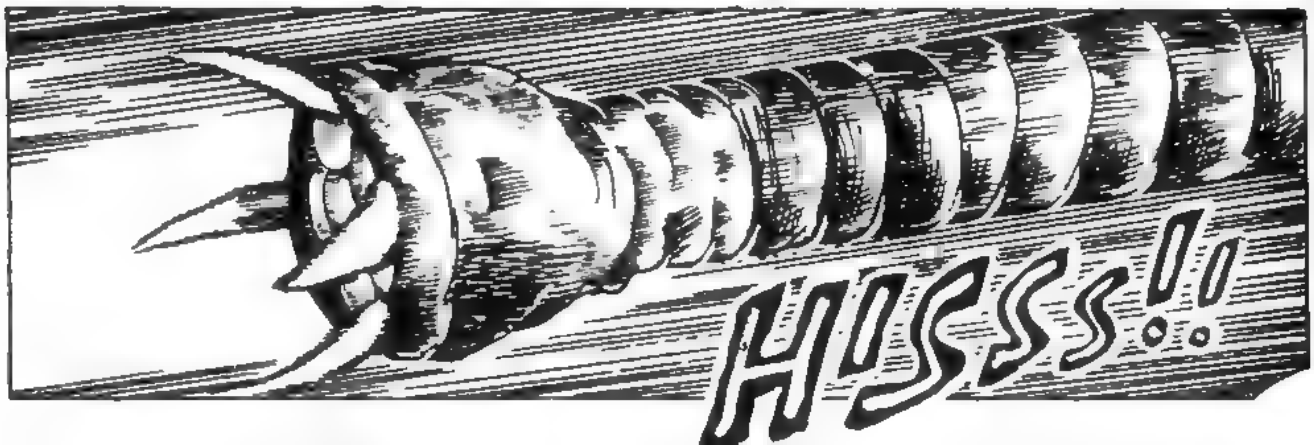


RISE, O' MONSTERS OF ZARDON ! SEEK OUT MY GROOM !

DESTROY MY ENEMIES !

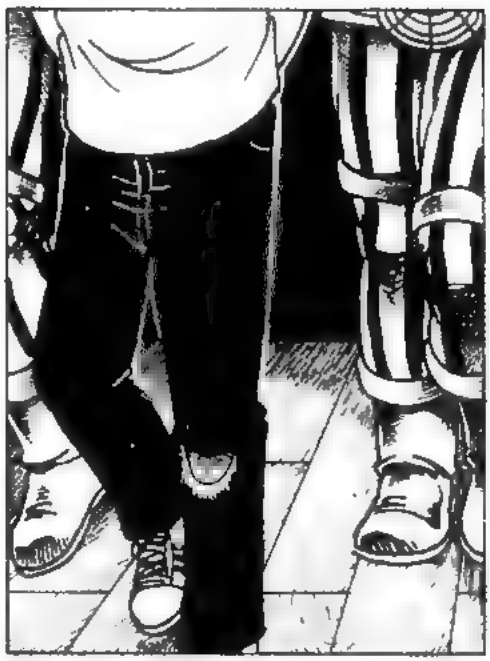
EVERYONE GET BACK ! THIS IS LEEANNA'S HANDIWORK !
LOOK !


RAAR!
MONSTERS!!


HISSS!!

EVERYONE PROTECT JEREMY!
THAT'S WHO SHE'S AFTER!
THUNA

THAT DOES IT! SHE'S GONE TOO FAR, NOW! IT'S TIME THAT I SHOW HER WHAT A SALUSIAN CAN REALLY DO!



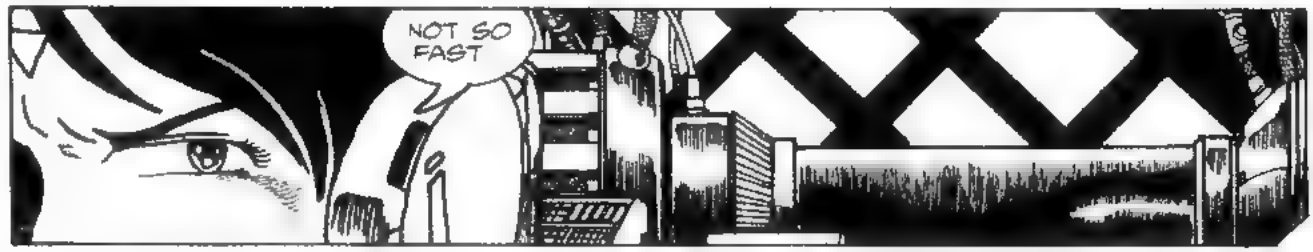
SO YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ESCAPE

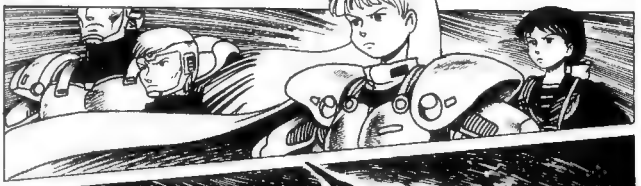
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
QUITE SIMPLE MY DEAR BOY WE *WANT* TO OUR RACE USED TO BE MERCHANTS AND TRADERS AS WE BECAME RICHER, WE BECAME MORE *AMBITIOUS* SOON WE BEGAN TO ENCROACH ON SALUSIAN TERRITORY! THE REST IS *OBVIOUS*

AND NOW TO... WHAT?!
HI!

SO THEY TURNED YOU INTO A *SALUSIAN*, EH? KNOWING VERY WELL THAT I COULDN'T MARRY A SALUSIAN!
VERY CLEVER! ASRIAL IS BETTER THAN I THOUGHT!

THEN IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL BE GOING NOW!


NOT SO FAST

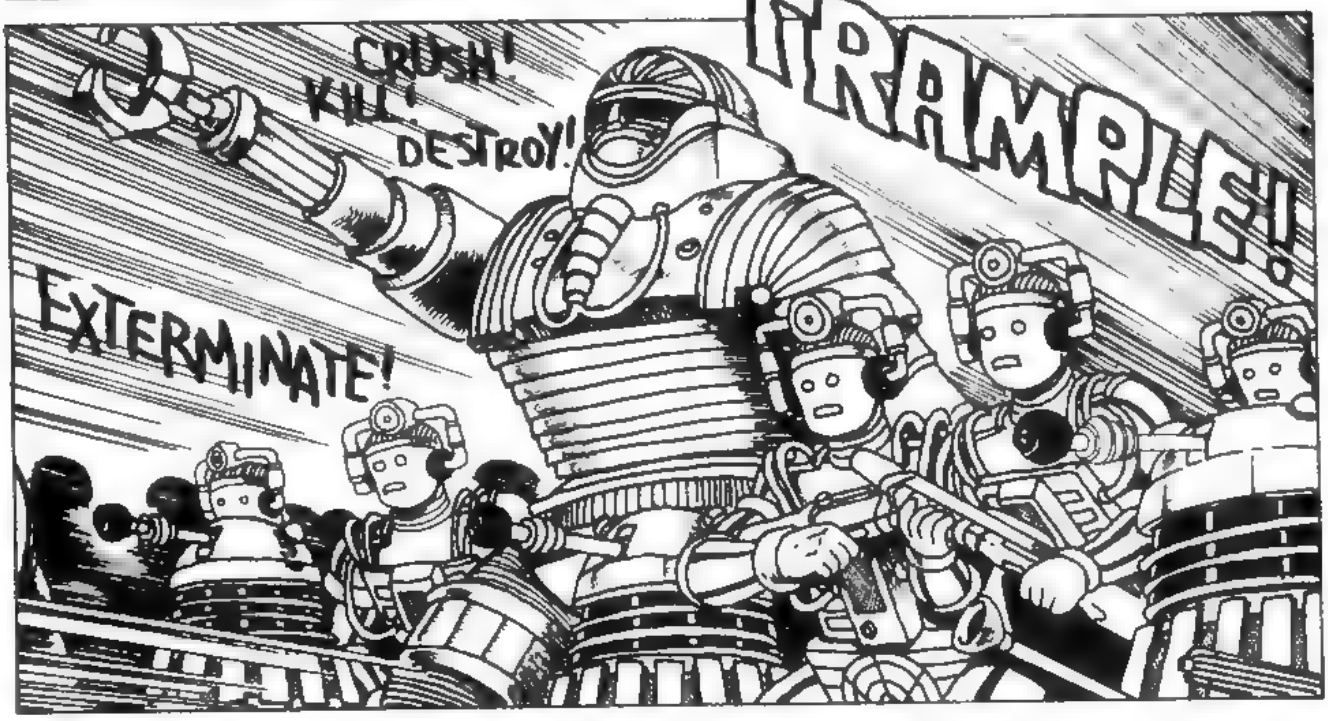


GO AWAY!!
KUBA-BRACK!!

LEEANNA! I WAS SENT TO PROTECT EARTH AND YOU HAVE BROUGHT OUR WAR TO THIS LOVELY PLACE! I CAN NO LONGER SIT BY WHILE YOU DESTROY THIS PLANET! AND IF JEREMY IS HURT

I WILL MAKE YOU PAY!

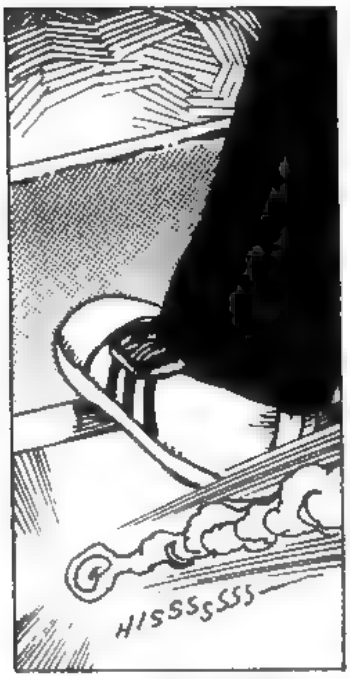
FORWARD!


CRUSH!
KILL!
DESTROY!
TRAMPLE!!
EXTERMINATE!

TRIFLE WITH A SALUSIAN OF IMPERIAL BIRTH?
OOF!
EXTERM'NATE

YOU'RE REALLY MAKING THIS MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT REALLY SHOULD BE!

NO!
PUT HIM IN THE ACTUALIZER, YOU FOOLS!
?!
SNAP!
CRAKLE!
POP!
STOP, YOU FOOL!
ARRH!
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT JEREMY WAS IN A TRANSFORMATION CHAMBER? PUT HIM IN THERE AND IT WILL CREATE A REALITY VORTEX!
ALL OF TIME AND SPACE WILL UNRAVEL LIKE A GIANT CABLE-KNIT SWEATER THAT SOMEONE KEEPS KNITTING! AND KNITTING! AND KNITTING!
AWAY FROM ME, JACKALS!
KIKK!!
THROW-
I WILL HAVE MY GROOM! EVEN IF I HAVE TO DESTROY A UNIVERSE!
GET IN THERE!
LEEANNA! NO!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP HER!

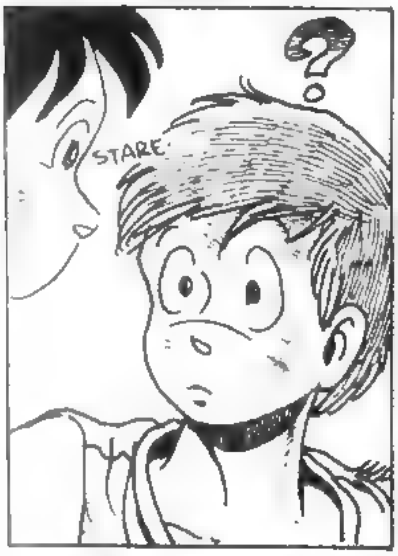

HISSSSSSS

EH? WHAT'S GOING ON?

CURSE YOU, STEAMHEAD! YOU THREW A RADIOACTIVE BEAN INTO THE CHAMBER!
IT'S GOING TO...

BLOW-UP!

LOOK! EVERYTHING'S FADING AWAY! WE'VE BEATEN LEEANNA!
I JUST HOPE JEREMY'S ALL RIGHT!
EXTERMINATE?
RAT EXTERMINATOR!



BEANS? HAH! HAH! HAH! IT WAS MY STEAM THAT SAVED THE DAY!

IF IT WASN'T FOR MY BEAN, YOU'D BE NOTHING!

IF I HADN'T BEEN CARRYING A POCKETFUL OF MY RADIOACTIVE BEANS, WE'D BE TOAST!

I CAN'T WAIT TO GO HOME!

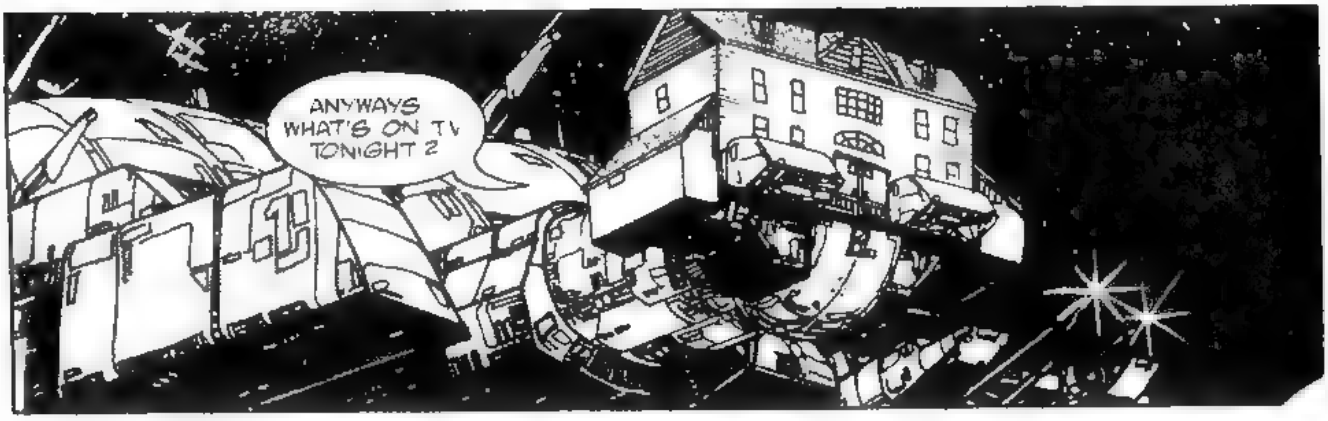
EPILOGUE :

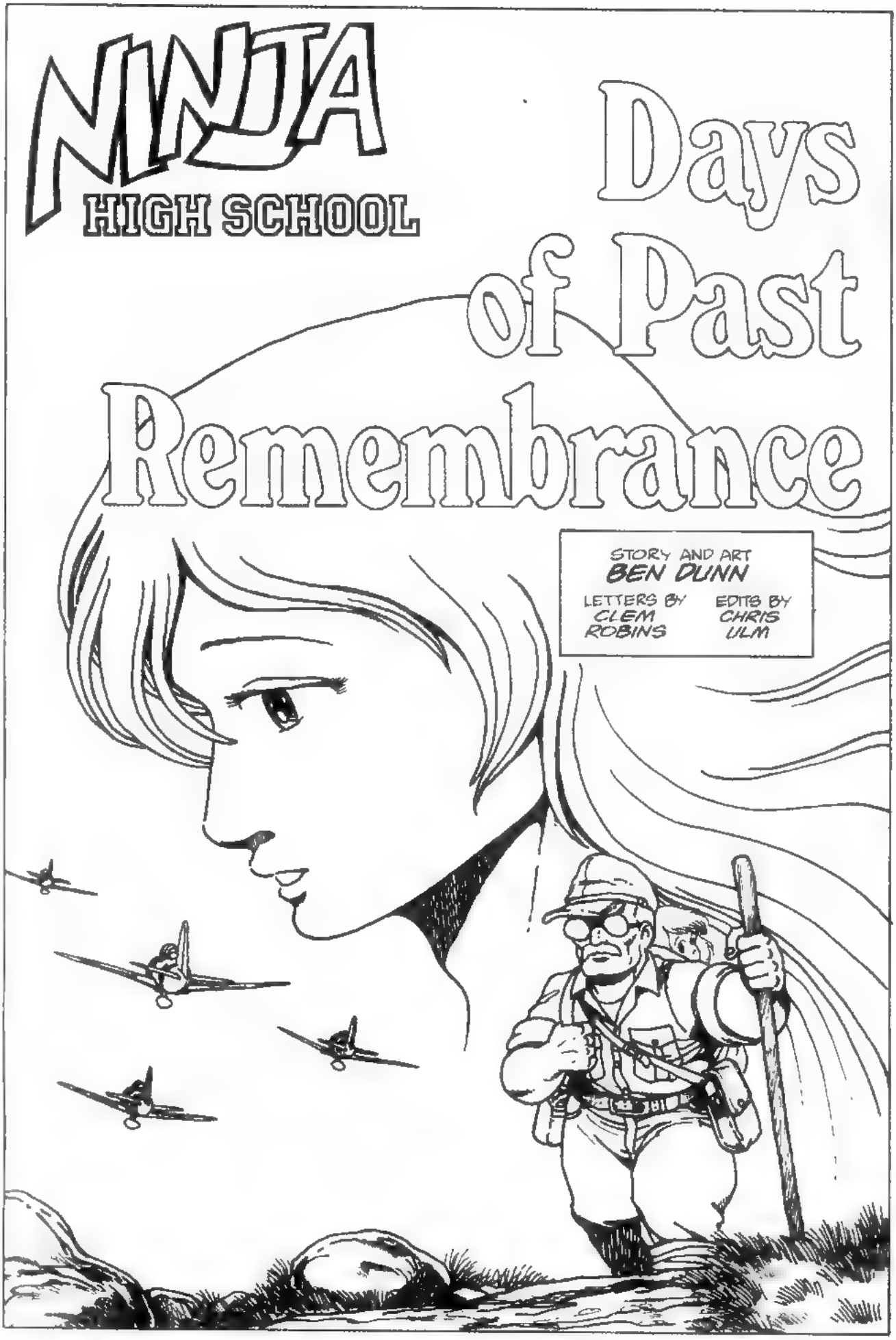
A SPACE STATION IN DEEP SPACE

CURSES ! ASRIAL HAS FOILED ME AGAIN !
YES ! THE EARTHLINGS ARE A RATHER PERSISTENT LOT, AREN'T THEY ?

THANK YOU FOR TRANSPORTING ME BACK TO THE STATION DOG
DON'T MENTION IT

BUT THIS WAR IS FAR FROM OVER ! AND IF ASRIAL THINKS THAT SHE HAS SEEN THE LAST OF ME
SHE IS WRONG !
SIP !


ANYWAYS WHAT'S ON TV TONIGHT ?

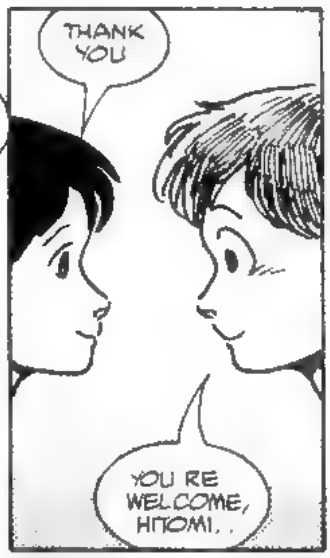

NINJA
HIGH SCHOOL
Days of Past Remembrance
STORY AND ART
BEN DUNN
LETTERS BY
CLEM ROBINS
EDITS BY
CHRIS ULM

FOR YOU JEREMY A SMALL TOKEN TO REMEMBER YOUR VISIT BY
THANK YOU, GRANDPA

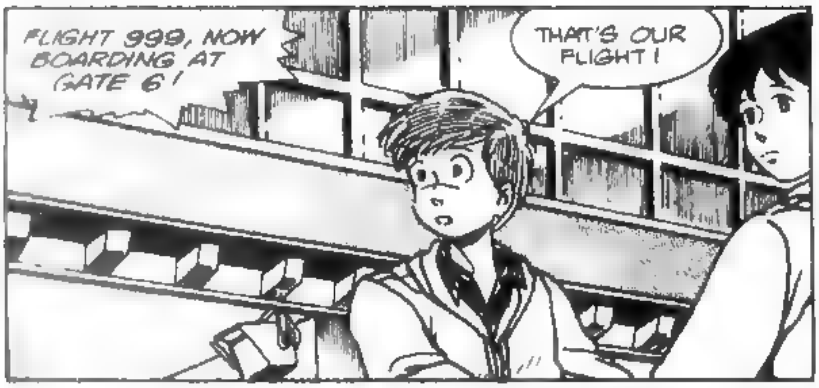
GOSH I'M GOING TO MISS YOU ALL!
AS WILL WE!
BUT AFTER THREE MONTHS, YOUR MOTHER MUST MISS YOU

GEE..IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT LONG! IT WAS LIKE I CAME HERE YESTERDAY!
JEREMY

I'M SORRY ABOUT DECEIVING YOU AT FIRST
NO PROBLEM, HITOMI
ACTUALLY I'M QUITE USED TO IT!


THANK YOU
YOU RE WELCOME, HITOMI..

ALL RIGHT!! BREAK IT UP!!


FLIGHT 999, NOW BOARDING AT GATE 6!
THAT'S OUR FLIGHT!

WHERE'S RICKY Z

HERE I AM!
JUST PICKED UP SOME TOYS FOR THE FLIGHT!

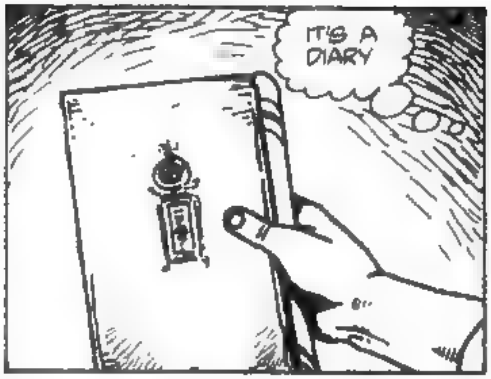
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ASRIAL Z
OH, I'M GOING TO GIVE STEAMHEAD AND MY FELLOW SALUSIANS A RIDE BACK

WELL I GUESS THIS IS GOOD-BYE.

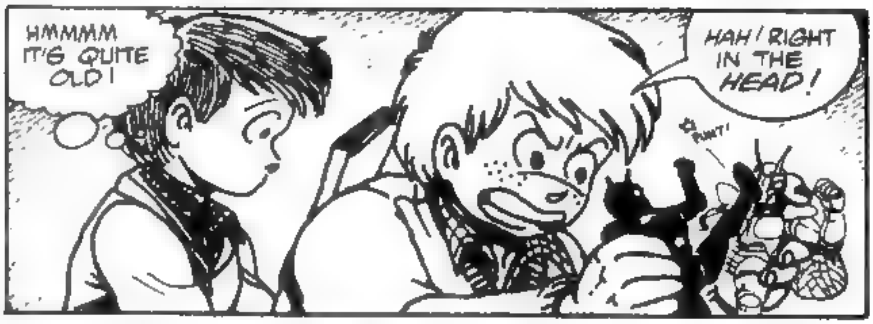
GOOD-BYE, JEREMY! I'LL MISS YOU!

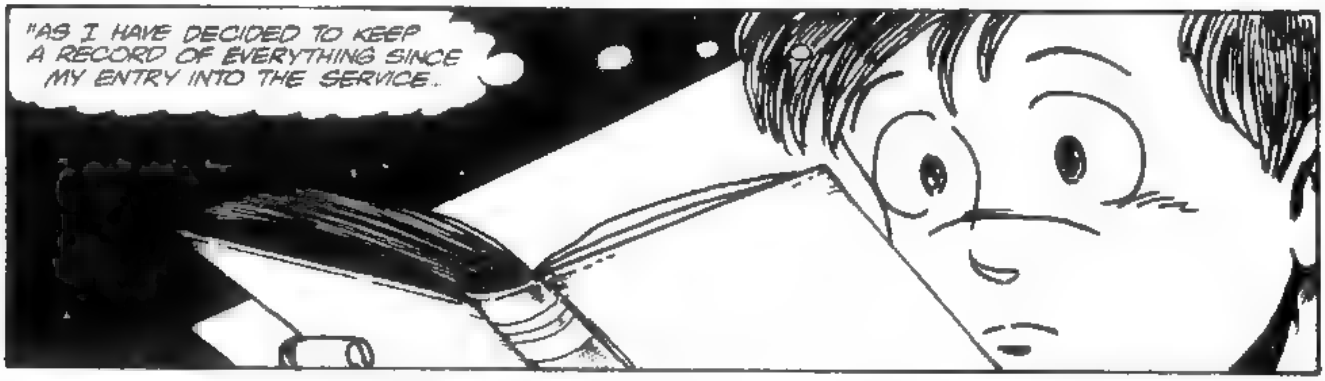
VUURREE!

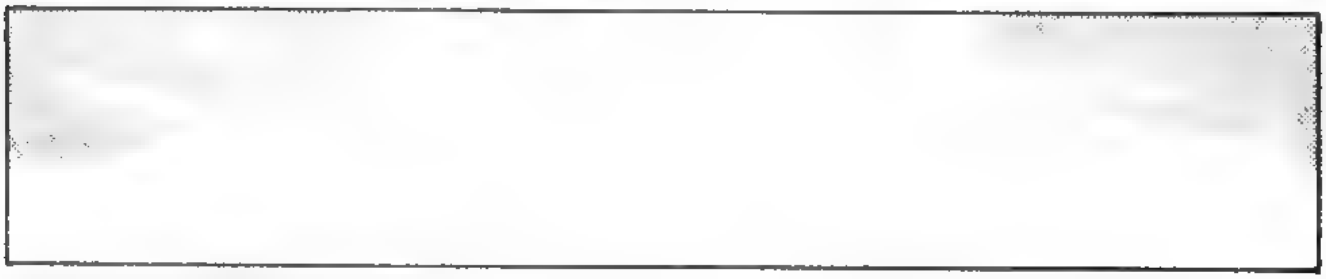
I WONDER WHAT GRANDPA GAVE ME?

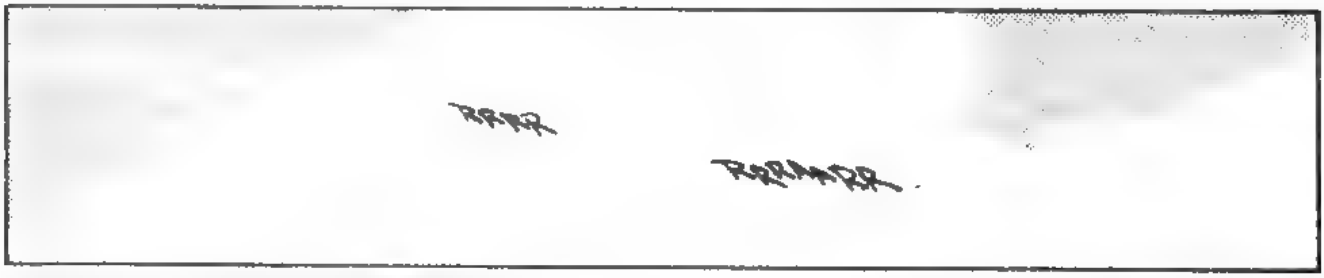

IT'S A DIARY

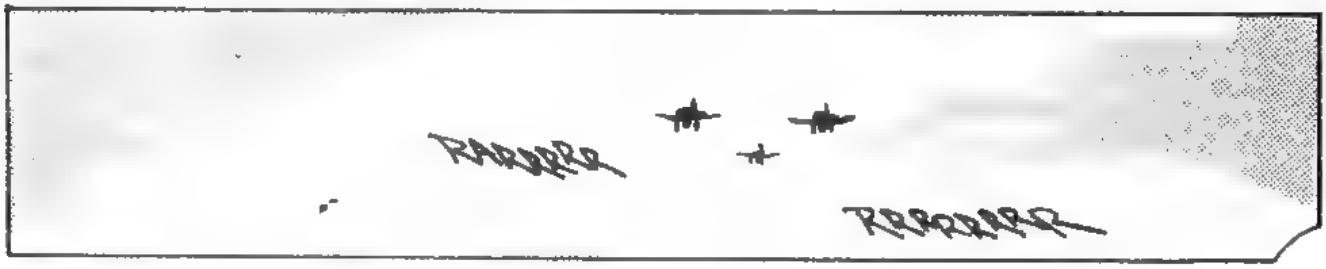
WHY WOULD GRANDPA GIVE ME A DIARY?

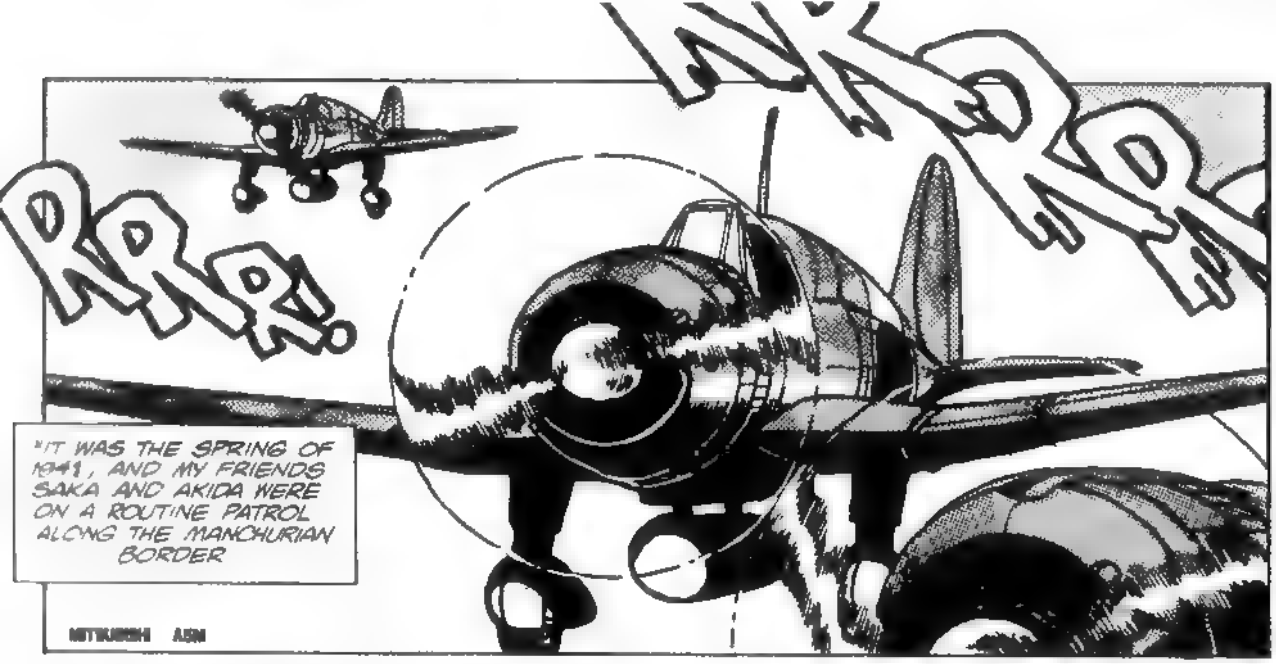

HMMMM IT'S QUITE OLD!
HAH! RIGHT IN THE HEAD!
PUNT!


"AS I HAVE DECIDED TO KEEP A RECORD OF EVERYTHING SINCE MY ENTRY INTO THE SERVICE.




RRRR
RRRRRR

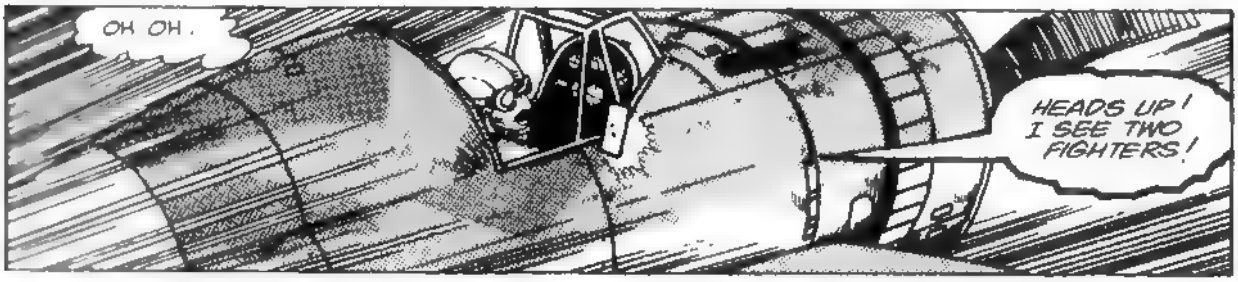

RRRRRR
RRRRRRR

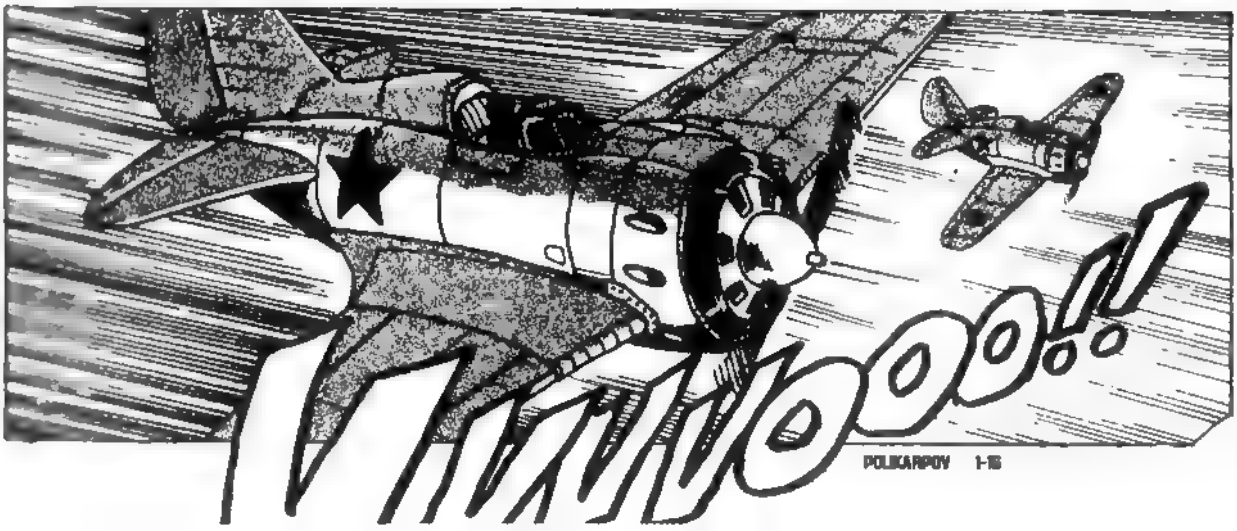

RRR!
NIPPON
"IT WAS THE SPRING OF 1941, AND MY FRIENDS SAKA AND AKIDA WERE ON A ROUTINE PATROL ALONG THE MANCHURIAN BORDER
MITSUBISHI A5M

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! WE'RE REALLY SKIRTING THE FRONTIER!
HIRO! WHY ARE WE OUT SO FAR?

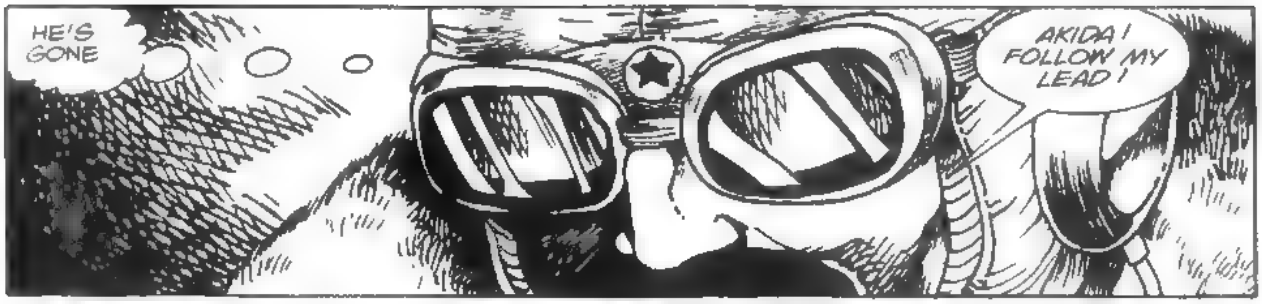
WE'RE LOOKING FOR ANY TROOP MOVEMENTS INTO MANCHURIA!
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME!

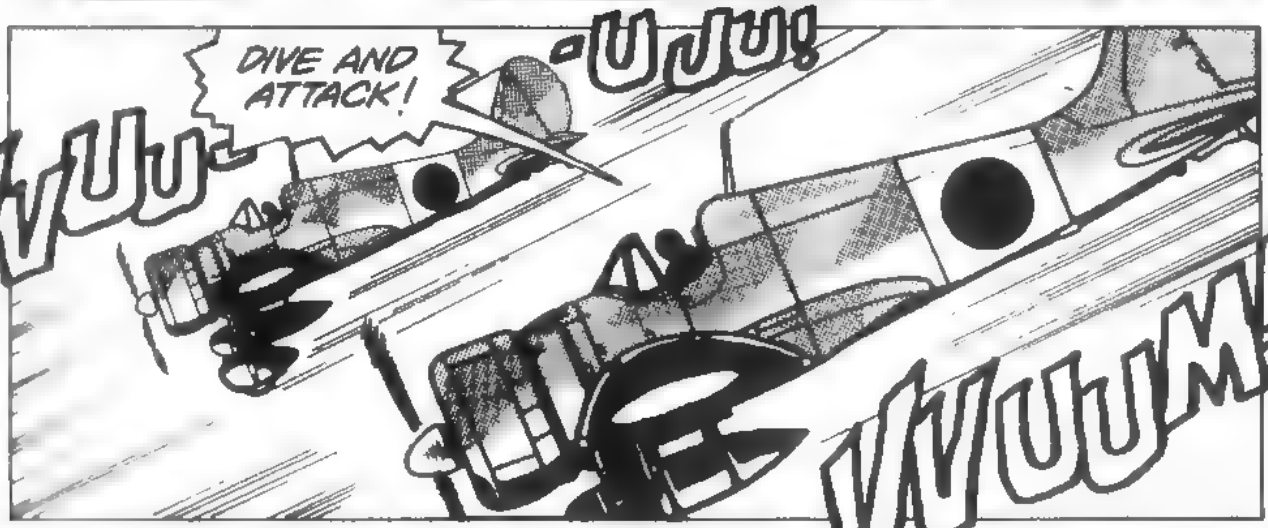
WE ALL KNOW THE RUSSIANS WON'T HELP THE CHINESE!


OH, OH.
HEADS UP! I SEE TWO FIGHTERS!


WOOO!!!
POLIKARPOV I-16

нападение!
VVV.
RUUM!
THEY'RE ATTACKING!
SAKA! DON'T CLIMB!
VVooo!
HE'S FLYING RIGHT INTO THEM!
TAKA! TAKA! TAKA! TAKA! TAKA!
HE'S BELOW ME!!
AAAHH!!
BLAM!!


HE'S GONE
AKIDA! FOLLOW MY LEAD!

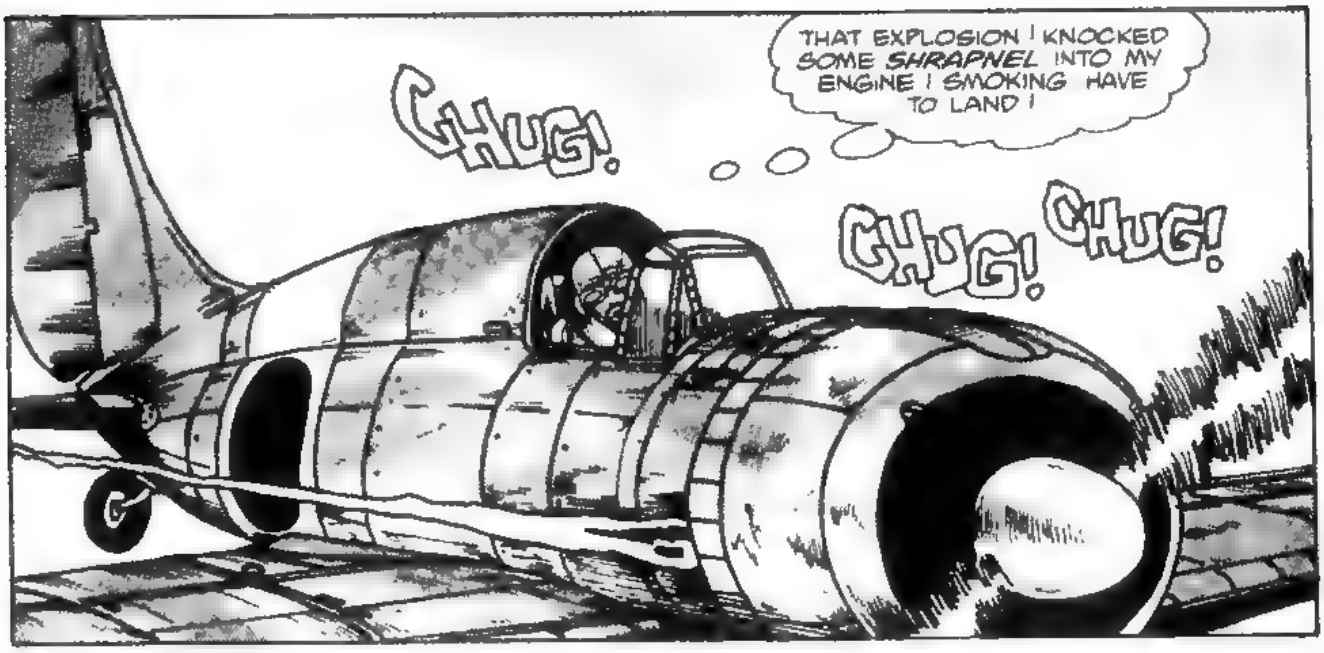

DIVE AND ATTACK!
VVUU
UUU!
VVUUM!

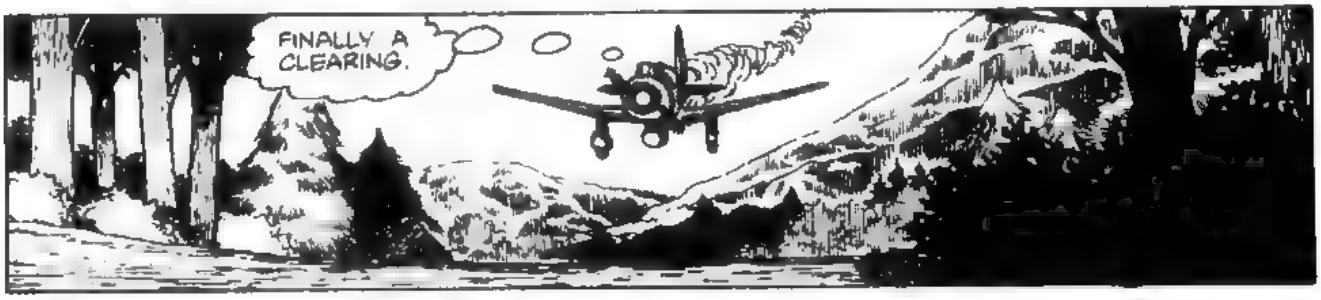
SHUUM!

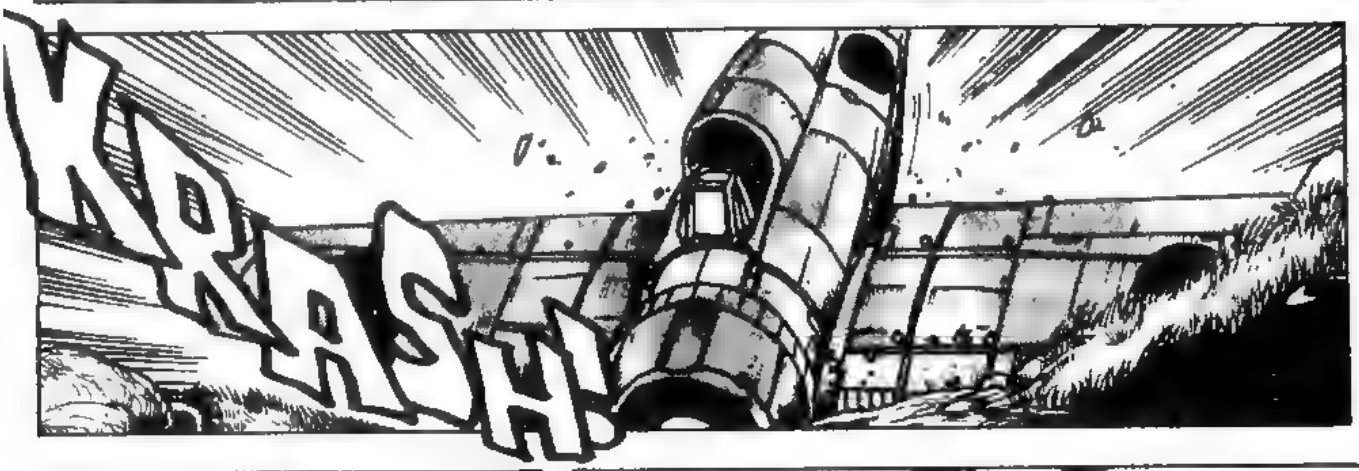
STEADY STEADY

NOW!
CHUKA!
CHUKA! CHUKA!

WHUM!


THAT EXPLOSION ! KNOCKED SOME SHRAPNEL INTO MY ENGINE ! SMOKING HAVE TO LAND !
CHUG!
CHUG!
CHUG!


FINALLY A CLEARING.


KRASH!

OF ALL THE LOUSY LUCK

"I KNEW THAT I HAD TO CONCEAL MY PLANE
WELL...THAT SHOULD COVER THE PLANE WELL ENOUGH !

I WONDER HOW FAR BEHIND THE LINES I AM
BETTER START WALKING !

I WALKED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, WHEN I CAME UPON A SMALL HUTCH
SUDDENLY, A RUSSIAN PEASANT GIRL CAME OUTSIDE.
"NOT MOVING FROM THE BUSHES, I OBSERVED HER.
"I HAD TO BE SURE THERE WERE NO SOLDIERS ABOUT
"BUT AS I WATCHED THIS GIRL, I BECAME STRANGELY ATTRACTED TO HER
I DO NOT KNOW WHY I HAD A WIFE AND CHILD IN JAPAN! AND YET FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON I COULD NOT BUT HELP LOOK AT HER FEATURES.
SHE HAD BEAUTIFUL, FLOWING RED HAIR AND SKIN AS SMOOTH AS SILK HER EYES LIKE LIQUID SKY.

KLUNK!

"CAUTIOUSLY I INTRODUCED MYSELF
LUCKILY, I SPOKE SOME RUSSIAN
алло!

WAIT! DON'T RUN!

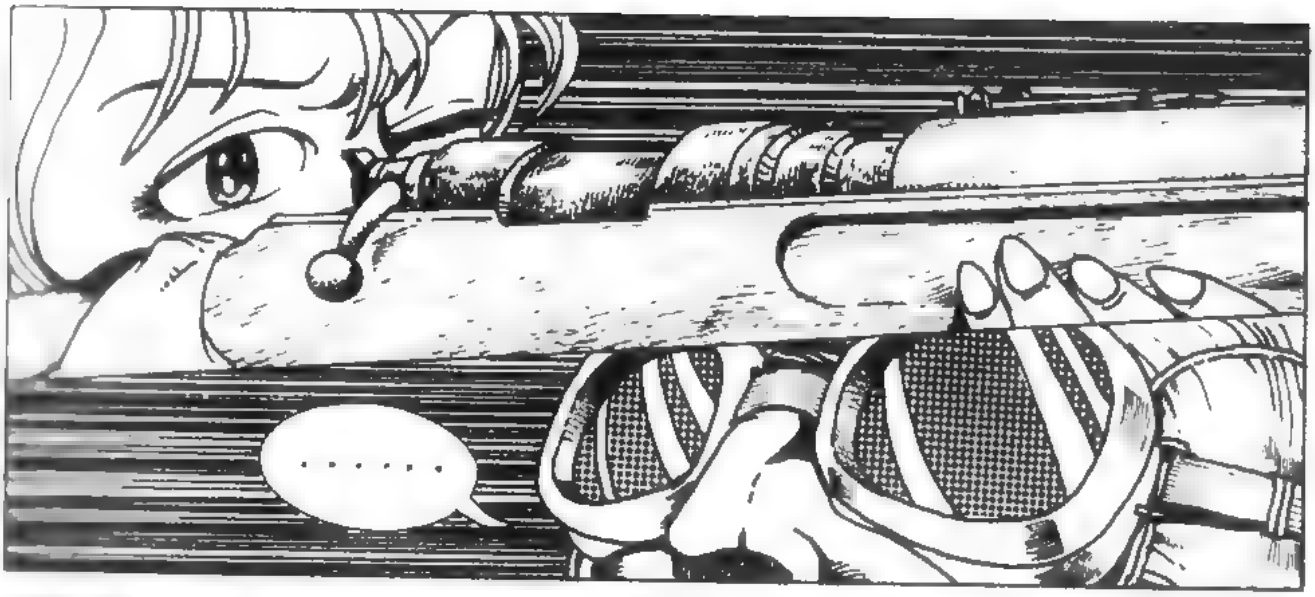
PLEASE I MEAN YOU NO HARM! DO NOT BE AFRAID! I AM A PILOT WHO'S BEEN SHOT DOWN!

I ONLY WANT A PLACE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT AND I WILL BE ON MY WAY!

FOR SEVERAL MINUTES THERE WAS A DREADFUL SILENCE

C-CREAK!

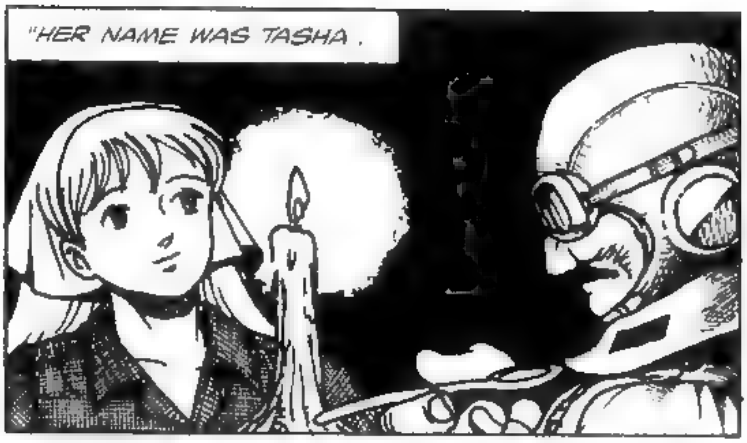
?!!

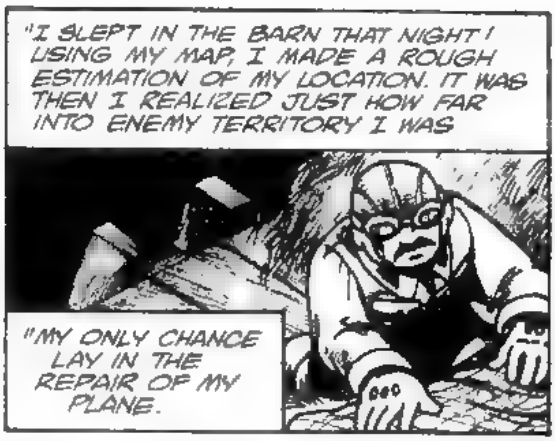

.....

KI-BA-M!

GOT HIM!
THUD!

SO THAT WOLF HAS BEEN PREYING ON YOUR SHEEP, EH?
OH, YES! IT WAS QUITE LUCKY THAT I GOT HIM TODAY!

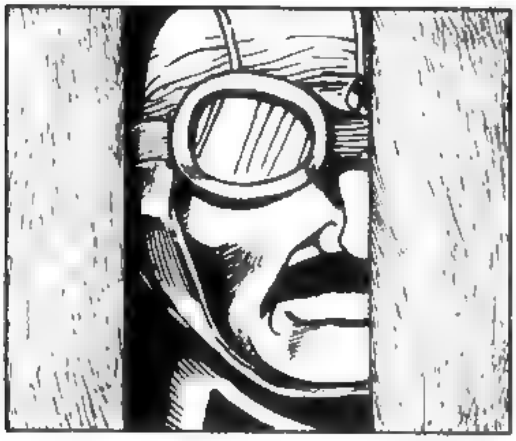

"HER NAME WAS TASHA.


"I SLEPT IN THE BARN THAT NIGHT! USING MY MAP, I MADE A ROUGH ESTIMATION OF MY LOCATION. IT WAS THEN I REALIZED JUST HOW FAR INTO ENEMY TERRITORY I WAS
"MY ONLY CHANCE LAY IN THE REPAIR OF MY PLANE.

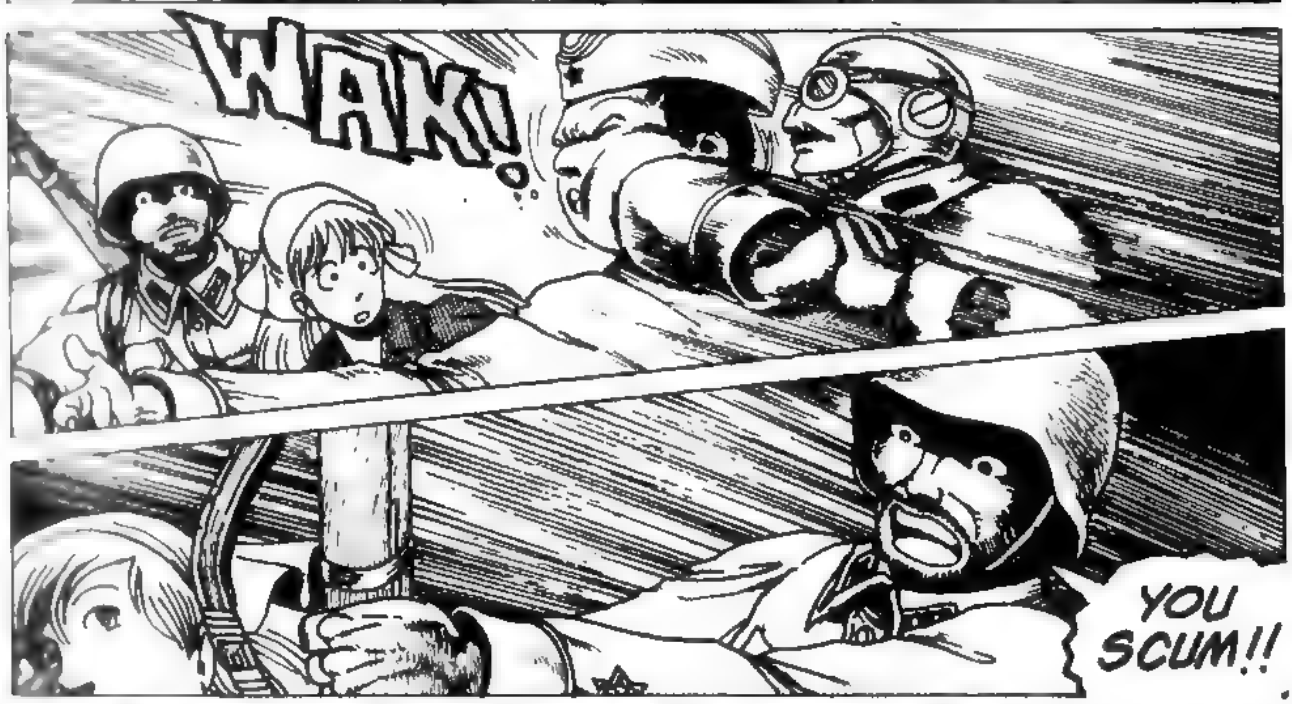
"THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS I SET UPON THE TASK OF REPAIRING MY AIRCRAFT. IT WAS DIFFICULT, BUT I MANAGED TO REPLACE MOST OF THE DAMAGED PARTS. TASHA WAS A BIG HELP. SHE WENT INTO TOWN SEVERAL KILOMETERS FROM THERE TO GET EQUIPMENT!

"THE DAY FINALLY CAME WHEN MY PLANE WAS ALMOST READY FOR TAKE-OFF
RRRRRR!

"THAT NIGHT
?



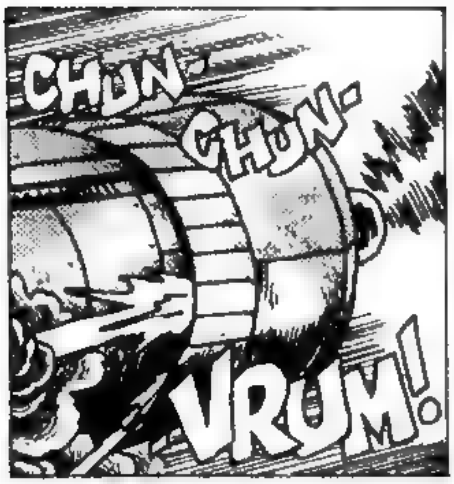
LET ME GO!
MY, SHE IS A FEISTY ONE!

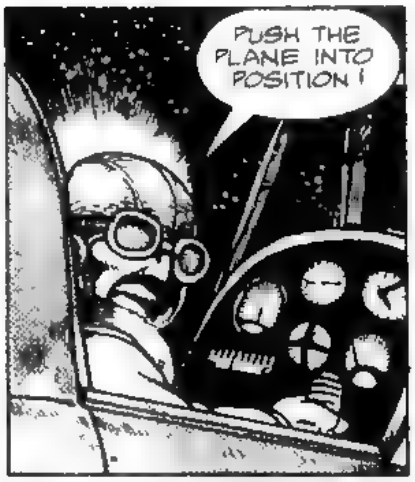

WAK!
YOU SCUM!!

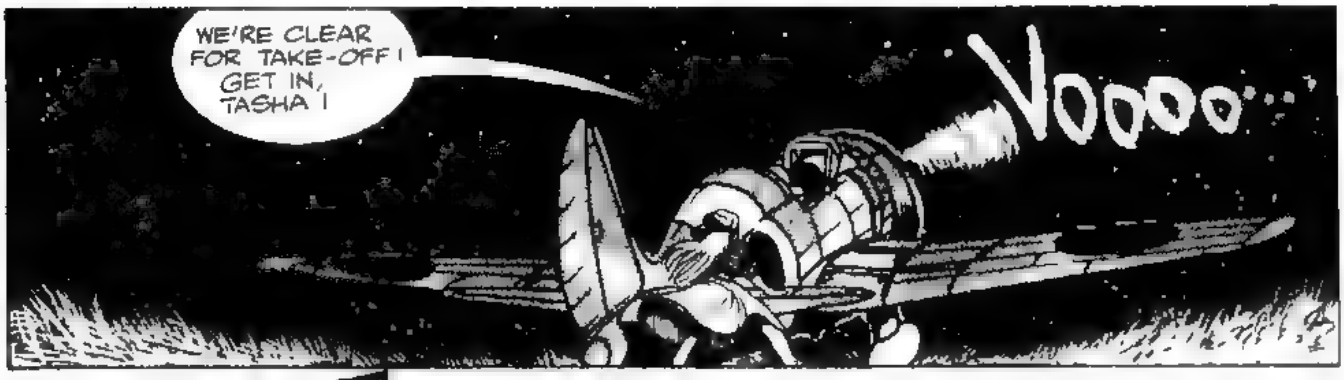
POK!

KICK!

YOU MUST GO! THAT SHOT WILL PROBABLY BRING OTHERS!
YOU MUST COME WITH ME!


CHUN-
CHUN-
VRUM!


PUSH THE PLANE INTO POSITION!

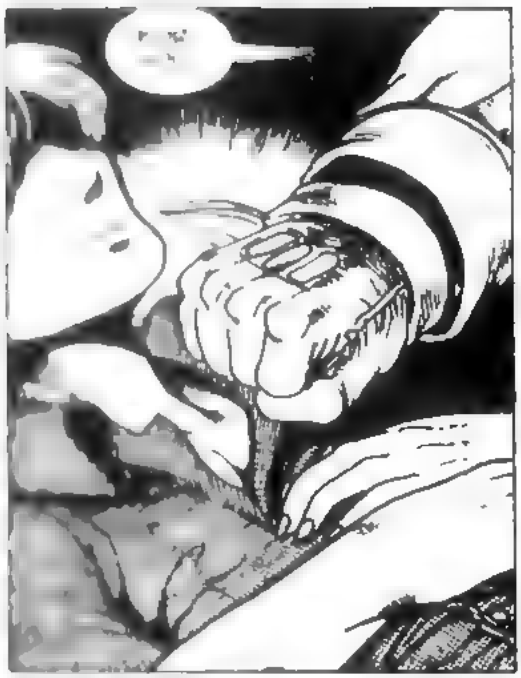

WE'RE CLEAR FOR TAKE-OFF! GET IN, TASHA!
VOOOO...

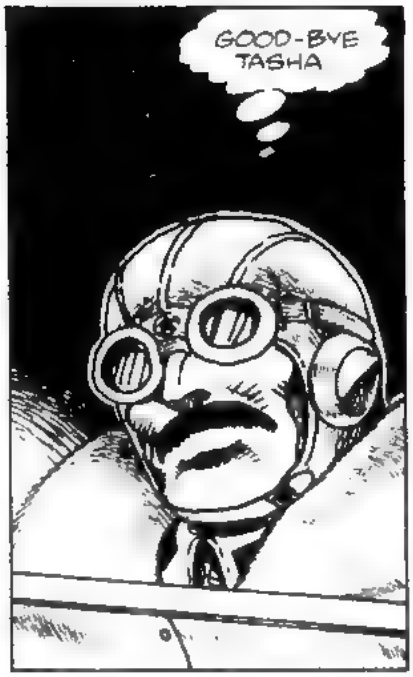
POW!
TASHA?!

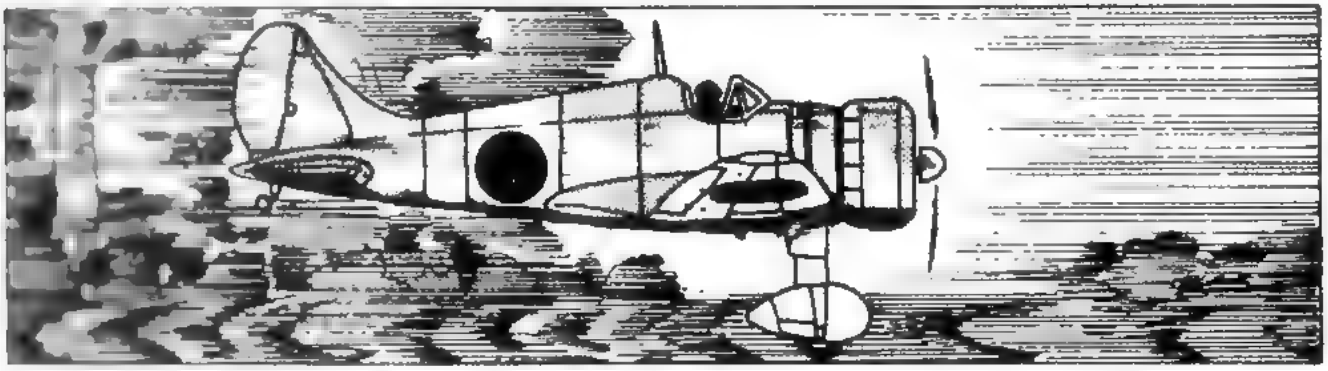
OH, NO! TASHA!

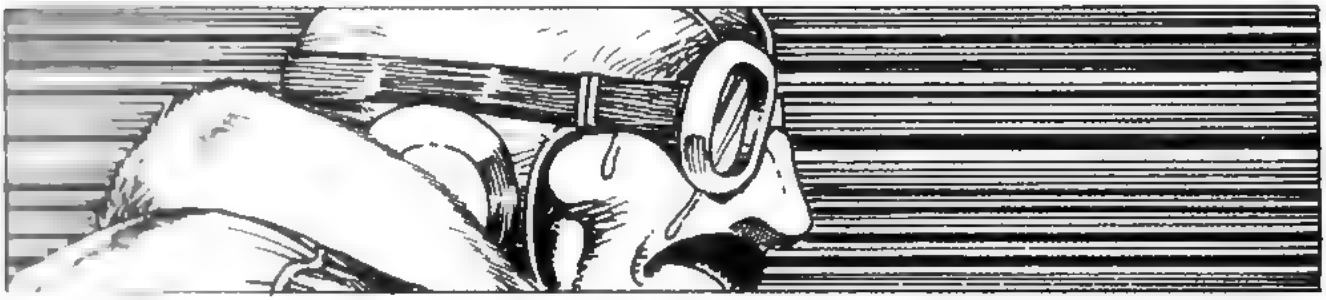
THERE'S NO TIME. YOU MUST LEAVE WITHOUT ME!
NO I CANNOT
YOU MUST

SAVE ANNA




GOOD-BYE TASHA





"WATCHING TASHA DIE WAS PERHAPS THE SADDEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE AND YET WITH HER CHILD ANNA, HER MEMORY WILL LIVE ON. I SWORE THAT I WOULD RAISE HER AS MY OWN."

"UPON MY ARRIVAL TO JAPAN, I DISCOVERED THAT MY COUNTRY HAD ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES!

"WE HAD SOWED THE SEEDS AND WERE NOW REAPING THE TEMPEST. WE HAD AWAKENED A GREAT GIANT, AND IT WOULD CONSUME US ALL..

"MY WIFE TOOK GOOD CARE OF ANNA AND MY SON SHOJI.. SHE WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE MANY HARDSHIPS WAR BROUGHT TO MY COUNTRY

"SHE WORKED IN AN AIRCRAFT PLANT IT WAS THERE SHE HELPED IN OUR DEFENSE OF JAPAN.

"IT WAS THERE SHE DIED!

"AND FOR THE SECOND TIME I FELT GREAT SORROW.

I DECIDED TO MOVE UP NORTH, WHERE I HAD MORE RELATIVES, AND ESCAPE THE ALMOST CONSTANT RAIN OF AMERICAN BOMBS

"SUDDENLY I REALIZED, TO MY SORROW, THE PAIN OF WAR

JAPAN WAS LOSING WE COULD NOT STAND AGAINST A POWER SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES EVERYONE KNEW THAT AN INVASION WOULD BE IMMINENT

"THEN ON AUGUST 6, 1945, THE WORLD CAME TO AN END

"THE SUN HAD SET ON THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN ..

"JAPAN SURRENDERED TO AMERICA ON AUGUST 10, 1945

"THEN CAME THE OCCUPATION I NO LONGER CARED ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT MY CHILDREN

"BUT THAT WOULD SOON CHANGE

"THEN ONE DAY WHILE GOING FOR MY DAILY WALK, I CAME UPON A SMALL COMMOTION IN THE VILLAGE

"AN AMERICAN UNIT HAD COME IT WAS LED BY A TALL FELLOW

JONES! SET UP THE *RAT EXTERMINATION* UNIT OVER THERE

I'LL TRY TO CALM THE LOCALS DOWN

SURE THING, CAPTAIN FEEPLE!

DOES ANYONE HERE SPEAK ENGLISH?

I DO!

GOOD!

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

MY NAME IS KUDUSAI ICHINOHEI.

WELL, SIR, I AM CAPTAIN JEROME FEEPLE!

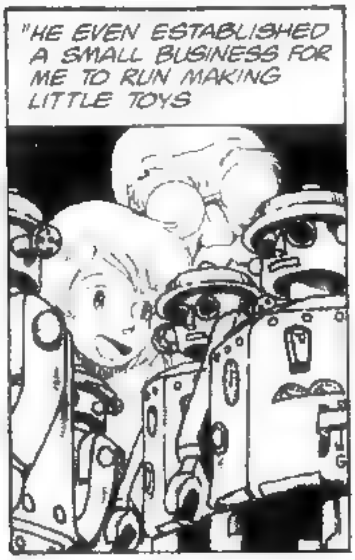
I AM WITH THE SPECIAL DIVISION OF RODENT ELIMINATION HERE TO HELP THIS VILLAGE

PLEASE EXPLAIN TO THEM THAT BEFORE WE CAN GET FOOD HERE, WE MUST FIRST CLEAR THE AREA OF *RATS!*

WE WOULDN'T WANT THOSE *FILTHY BEASTS* TO INFEST EVERYTHING!

WITH THE HELP OF JEROME FEEPLE OUR VILLAGE BECAME ONE OF THE CLEANEST AND HEALTHIEST IN THE DISTRICT! NOT ONLY DID HE ELIMINATE THE RATS AND GET FOOD FOR US, HE APPOINTED ME ADMINISTRATOR THIS MADE ME VERY IMPORTANT TO THE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY

JEROME SOON BECAME MY VERY BEST FRIEND WE WOULD ENJOY MANY MOMENTS TOGETHER


"HE EVEN ESTABLISHED A SMALL BUSINESS FOR ME TO RUN MAKING LITTLE TOYS

"WITH SUCH PROSPERITY I KNEW THAT THINGS WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE

SEVERAL YEARS LATER I HIRED A MAN TO HELP IN RUNNING THE MORE RUDIMENTARY ASPECTS OF MY BUSINESS, AN INDUSTRIOUS MAN NAMED KENJO KIRALSAN VERY YOUNG AND HEADSTRONG AMBITION WAS HIS FORTÉ KENJO WAS AN INVALUABLE EMPLOYEE BUT I FORESAW TROUBLE

THEN ONE DAY AT DINNER

NOW THEN. WHEN WILL YOU GO TO THE STATES WITH ME?
GO TO THE STATES ARE YOU CRAZY?
PLEASE, KENJO

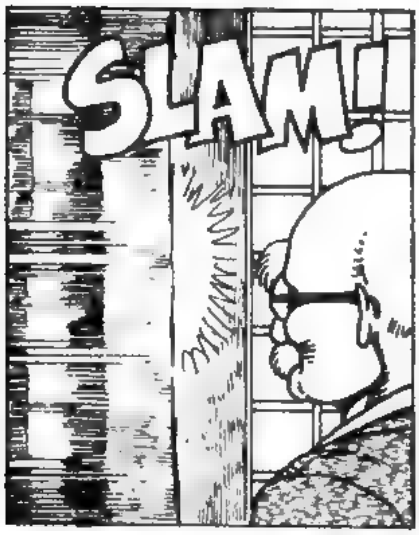
DIDN'T HE TELL YOU, KENJO, THAT I WANTED TO INVITE KUDUSAI TO OPEN A RAT EXTERMINATION SERVICE?
WHY WAS I NOT TOLD OF THIS?
I WAS GOING TO
PROD

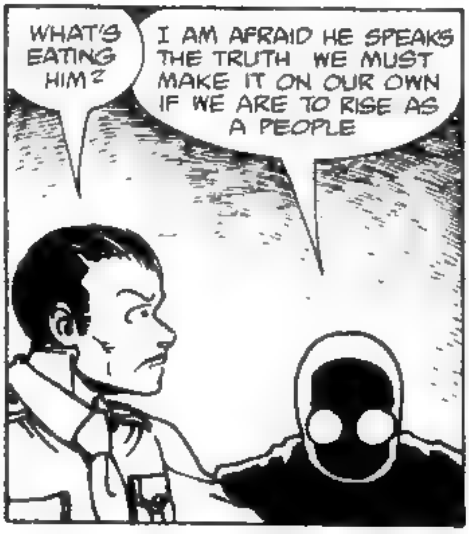
I HAVE PLANS FOR OUR COMPANY THAT FAR OUTSHINE YOURS!
OH, YEAH? WHAT'S THAT?
AUTO-MOBILES!

AUTOMOBILES? GET SERIOUS! SURE YOU GUYS MAKE GREAT TOYS, BUT, NO OFFENSE, THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN HANDLE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
BAH!

THAT DOES IT! I'M SICK OF WORKING FOR A COMPANY THAT IS GOING NOWHERE!
I WILL FORM MY OWN COMPANY! I DO NOT NEED YOU OR ANYONE!

KENJO, WAIT
GOOD-BYE!


SLAM!


WHAT'S EATING HIM?
I AM AFRAID HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH. WE MUST MAKE IT ON OUR OWN IF WE ARE TO RISE AS A PEOPLE

I APPRECIATE ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR US, BUT I DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE. I FEEL THAT, FINALLY, A MEASURE OF INDEPENDENCE CAN BE STRUCK. I HOPE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND.

SURE. I UNDERSTAND!
AND I WISH YOU LUCK. YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD FRIEND, KUDUSAI

SEVERAL DAYS LATER
THANK YOU, TOMOME. I CAN NEVER REPAY YOU FOR ALL THE SERVICE YOU HAVE GIVEN US.
HEY, IT WAS MY DUTY!
SAY GOOD-BYE TO UNCLE JEROME, ANNA!
SHE'S GROWING QUITE FAST!
BYE!
KEEP IN TOUCH.
I WILL.
DURING THE INTERVENING YEARS, I HAVE ESTABLISHED MY OWN FAMILY CLAN.
"RIVALSAN'S OLDEST SON, KUMA, VOLUNTEERED AS MY SERVANT TO PAY BACK WHAT HE CONSIDERED A DEBT THAT HIS FATHER REFUSED TO PAY...
"MY ONLY SON, YOSHI, GREW TO BE A VERY TROUBLESOME LAD.
...WHILE ANNA GREW TO BECOME A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN AND THE BEST NINJA IN THE CLAN.

"HOWEVER, MY SON DID NOT SHARE MY AMBITIONS AND BEGAN USING HIS NINJA SKILLS FOR CHEAP PARLOR TRICKS! HE FINALLY WENT TO COLLEGE I KNEW HE COULD NEVER TAKE OVER THE CLAN

TADA

"GETTING MARRIED AND HAVING TWO GIRLS REALLY CLINCHED IT! HE WOULD NEVER TAKE OVER THE CLAN IT DIDN'T INTEREST HIM...

WEEE!!

"I THEN CONSIDERED ANNA

HAI!

"I UPPED HER TRAINING EVEN FURTHER

"SHE STUDIED DAY AND NIGHT TO BECOME LEADER OF ONE OF THE BEST CLANS IN ALL OF JAPAN! SHE WOULD BEAT THEM ALL AND FINALLY UNITE ALL CLANS UNDER OURS!

"ONE DAY I NOTICED RATS IN THE PANTRY I CALLED UPON THE SON OF MY OLD FRIEND, WHOM I HAD HEARD WAS THE BEST

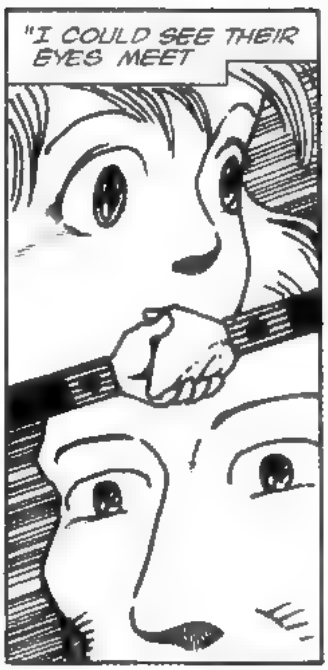
"THAT WAS A BIG MISTAKE!

RE

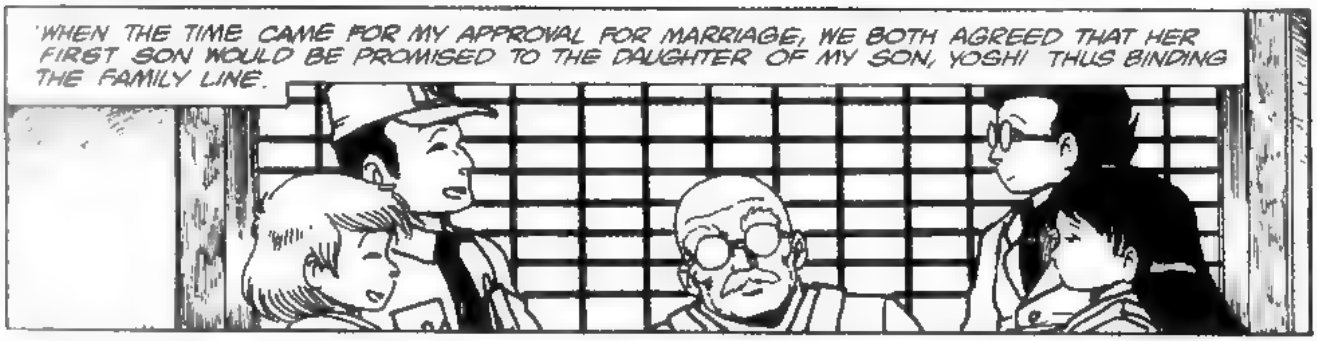
BOB

I'LL GOT A PRETTY BAD CAGE OF RATS!
OF COURSE, YOU WILL TAKE CARE OF IT!
RE

"JUST THEN ANNA CAME INTO THE ROOM..
RE


"I COULD SEE THEIR EYES MEET

ANNA HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM..
"FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, THE SON OF MY BENEFACTOR COURTED MY ADOPTED DAUGHTER.


"WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR MY APPROVAL FOR MARRIAGE, WE BOTH AGREED THAT HER FIRST SON WOULD BE PROMISED TO THE DAUGHTER OF MY SON, YOSHI THUS BINDING THE FAMILY LINE.

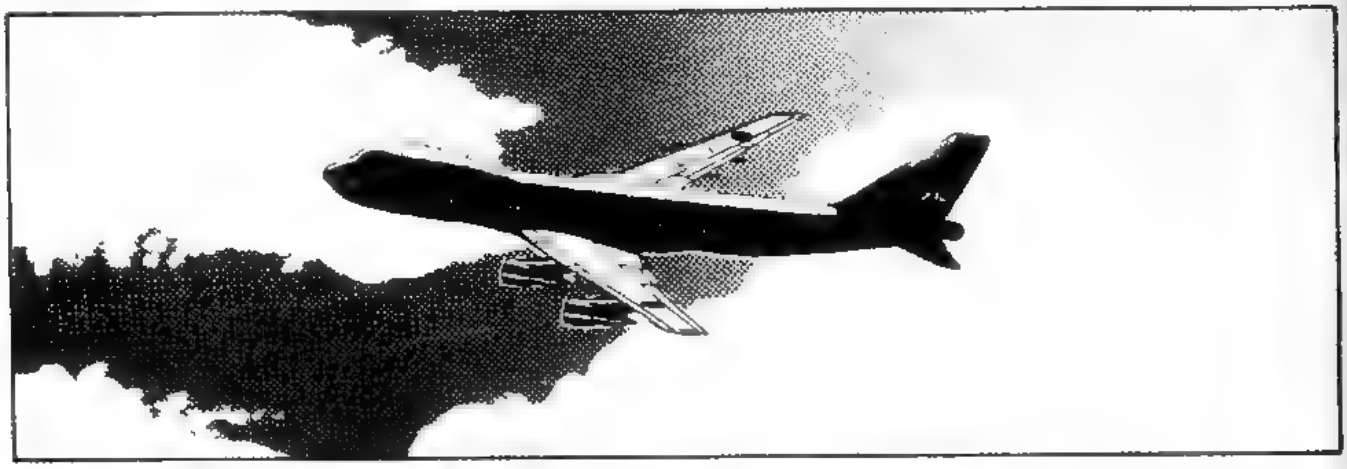
"IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL CEREMONY

"SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, AFTER ARRIVING IN THE STATES, THE TWO OF THEM HAD THEIR FIRST SON THEY NAMED HIM JEREMY, A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAN AND A GOOD FRIEND .

"IT IS HERE THAT I CONCLUDE THIS DIARY

"AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME I AM HAPPY

" AND IN THE END, THAT'S ALL THAT REALLY COUNTS "



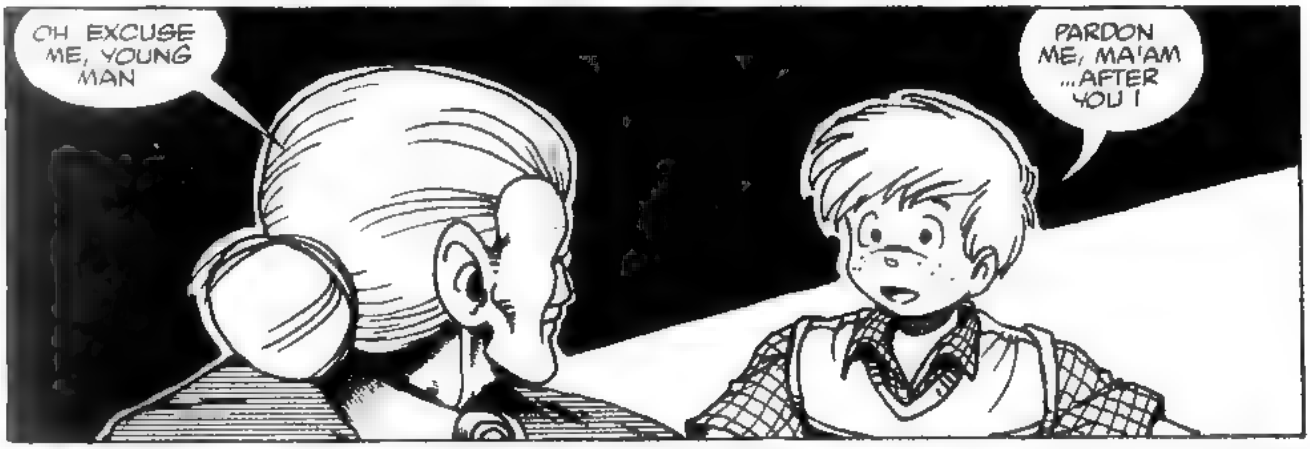
GRANDPA SURE WENT THROUGH A LOT OF SUFFERING TO MAKE OTHERS HAPPY
MAYBE I SHOULD MARRY ITCHY...

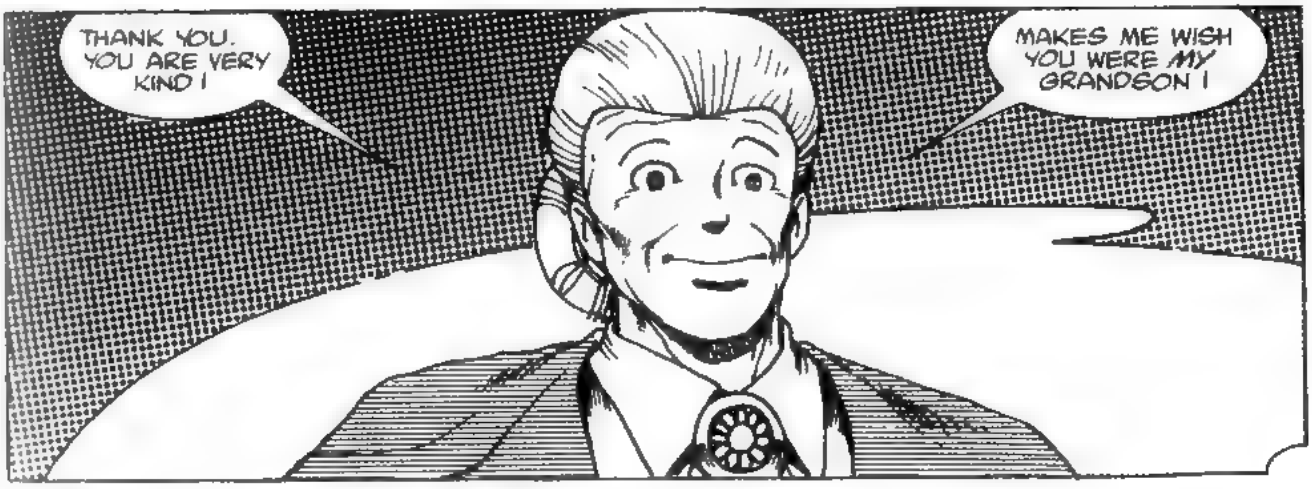
PERHAPS I'M BEING SELFISH IN NOT MARRYING HER

NO! THE DECISION MUST BE MINE AS TO WHO I WILL MARRY!

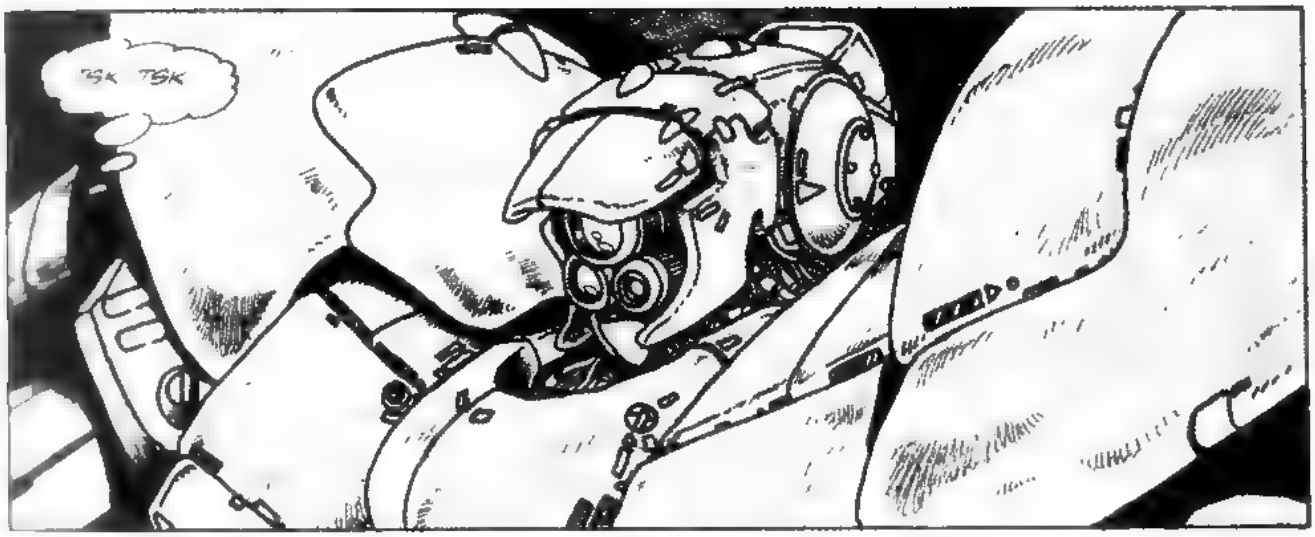
IF ITCHY KOO IS DESTINED TO MARRY ME, THEN O.K., BUT WHOEVER IT'S GOING TO BE, IT WILL ONLY BE BETWEEN ME AND HER!

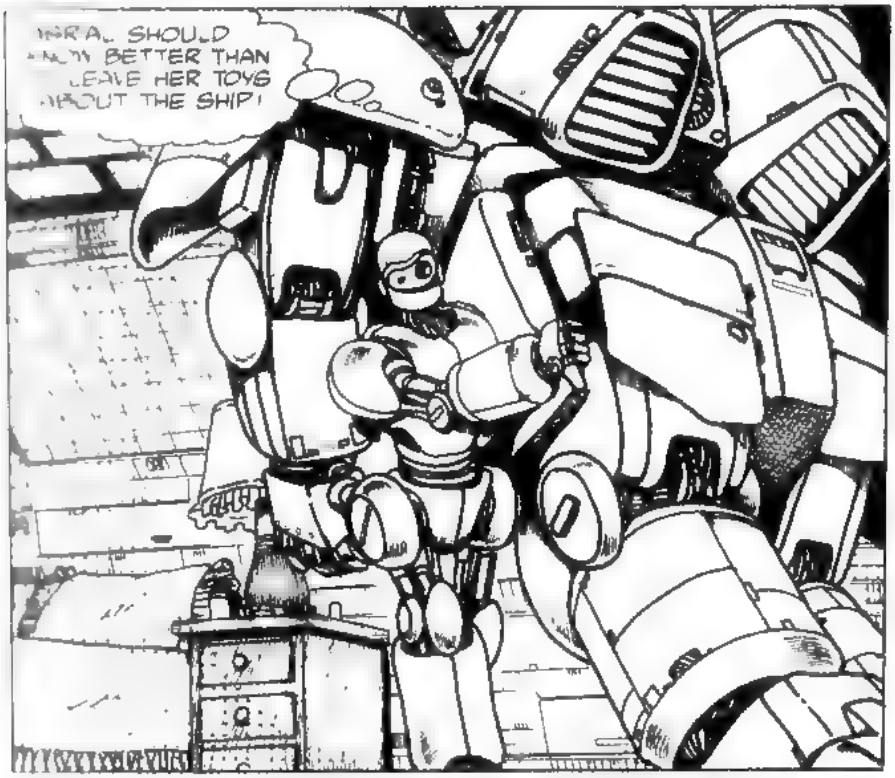
JEREMY! I NEED TO GO!
THEN GO! YOU'RE NOT A BABY, RICKY

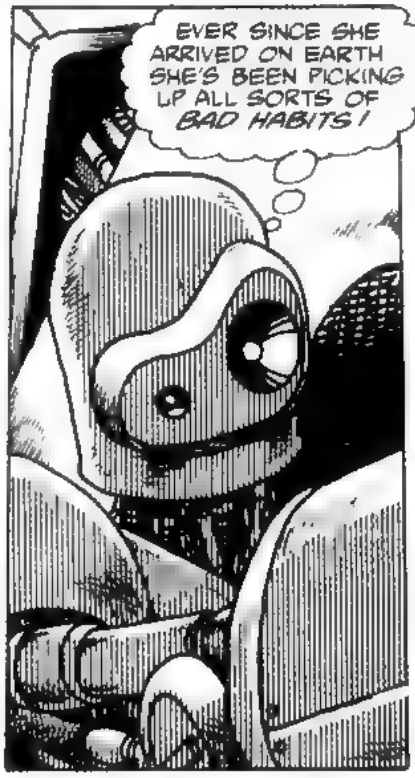

OH EXCUSE ME, YOUNG MAN
PARDON ME, MA'AM ...AFTER YOU!

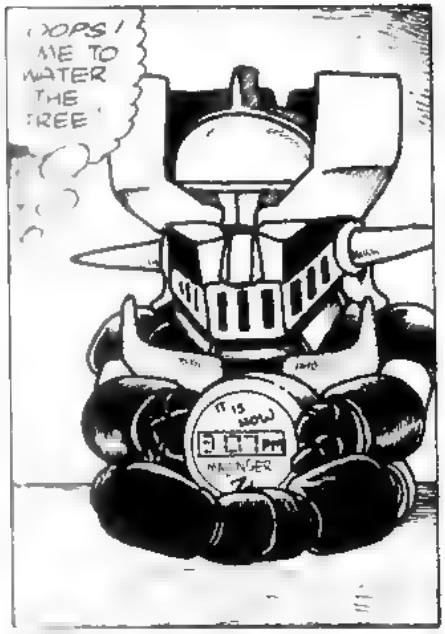

THANK YOU. YOU ARE VERY KIND!
MAKES ME WISH YOU WERE MY GRANDSON!

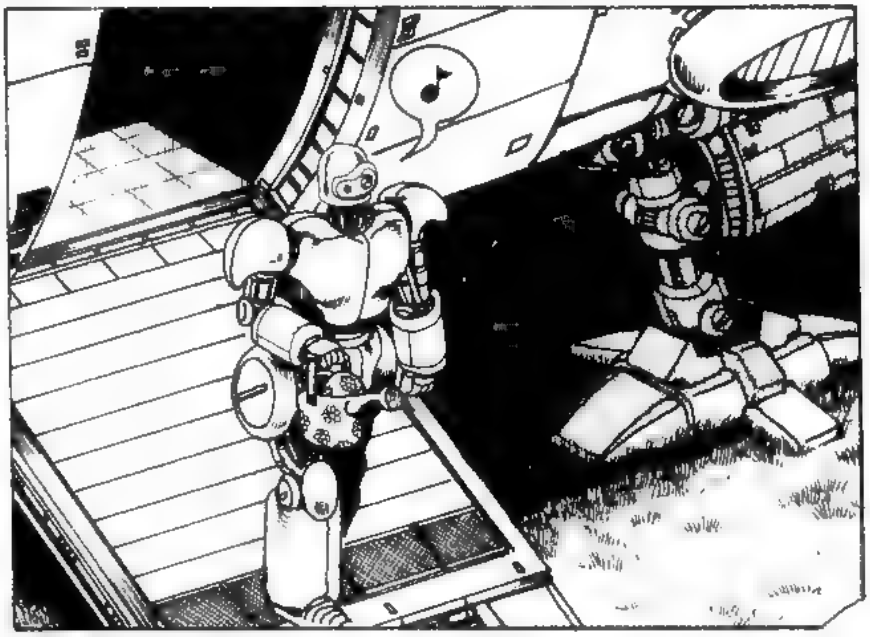
NINJA
HIGH SCHOOL
BEN DUNN
CREATOR
CLEM ROBINS
LETTERER
CHRIS ULM
EDITOR
Blue Food

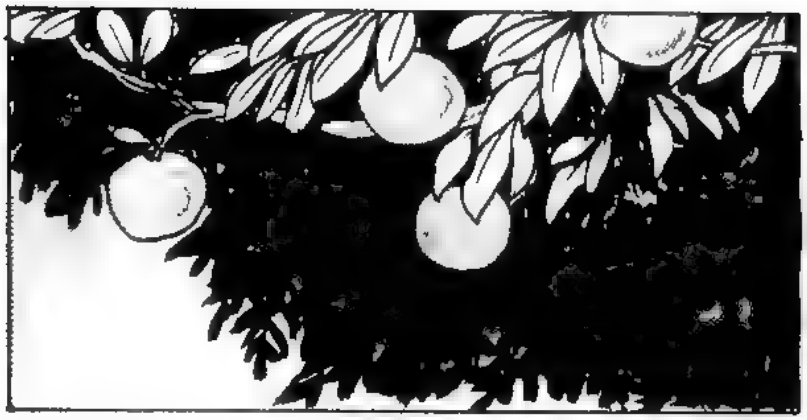

TSK TSK

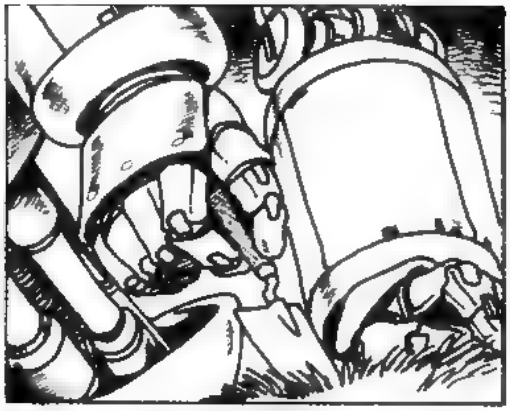

NRAL SHOULD
BETTER THAN
LEAVE HER TOYS
BOUT THE SHIP!

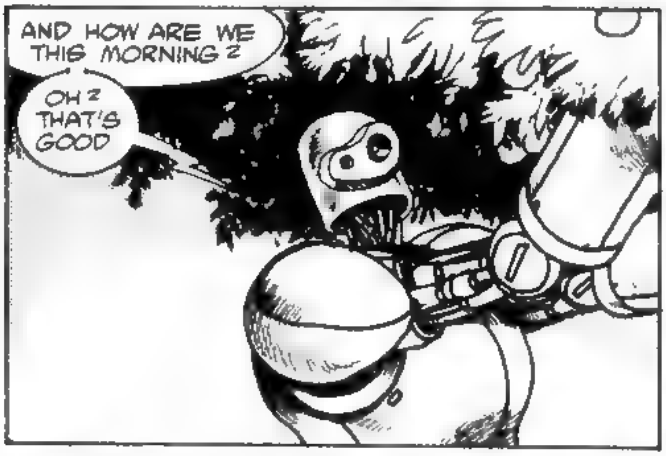

EVER SINCE SHE ARRIVED ON EARTH SHE'S BEEN PICKING UP ALL SORTS OF BAD HABITS!

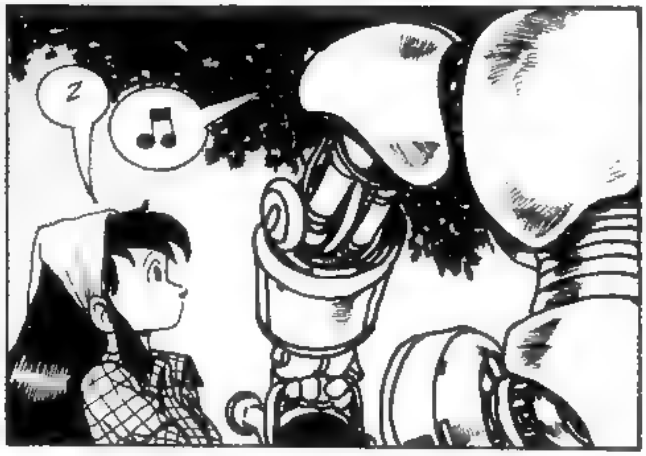

OOPS! ME TO WATER THE TREE
IT IS NOW
MAGNIFIER








AND HOW ARE WE THIS MORNING?
OH? THAT'S GOOD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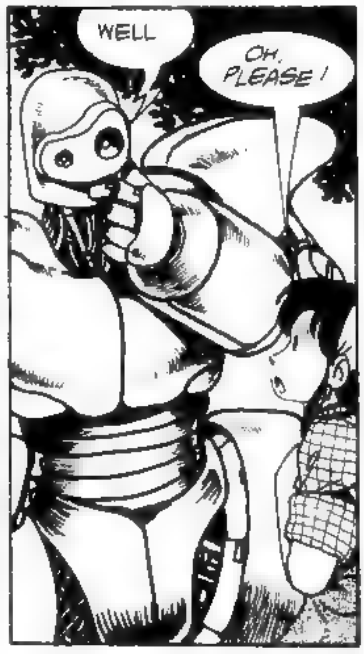
GOOD MORNING, NANNY! WHAT A LOVELY TREE!
THANK YOU, SMALL HUMAN

HOW ODD
I'VE NEVER SEEN A FRUIT THIS COLOR BEFORE!
IT MUST BE SOME STRANGE EXOTIC SPECIES!

"YOU SEE, WHERE I WAS BUILT IT IS REQUIRED THAT EVERY CHILD OF SALUSIA PLANT A TREE AND CARE FOR IT! ASRIAL HAS SUCH A TREE IN FRONT OF THE ROYAL PALACE! WE REALIZED HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO KEEP THE BALANCE OF NATURE INTACT!

"IT IS ALSO CUSTOMARY TO NAME THE TREE ASRIAL NAMED HERS **AMBER**, AND THIS TREE IS A RESULT OF A SEED I BROUGHT BACK WITH ME FROM SALUSIA

"I PLANTED THIS TREE WHILE SHE IS GONE TO **SURPRISE HER** "



THANK YOU!
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT THIS IS A MISTAKE?
FLOUR
CHOMP
DELICIOUS!
I'VE NEVER TASTED A BETTER TART ANYWHERE!

NOK! NOK!

NOW WHO COULD THAT BE? COME IN!

WH HELLO SAMM! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
JUST CAME BY TO DROP OFF SOME FISH FOR MRS FEEPLE!
HEY WHAT SMELLS SO GOOD?

OH TARTS
THAT'S UNUSUAL DID YOU USE A BLUE FOOD COLORING?
NO
BAKIN SODA
RNC

THAT'S THE COLOR THEY NATURALLY OCCUR
REALLY? CAN I TRY ONE?

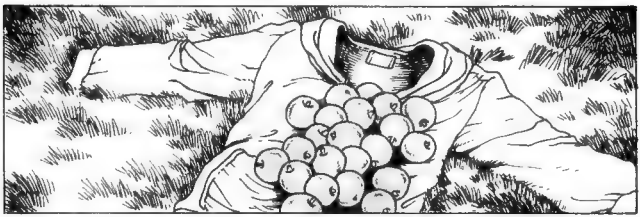
CERTAINLY!
TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK!

OHM...

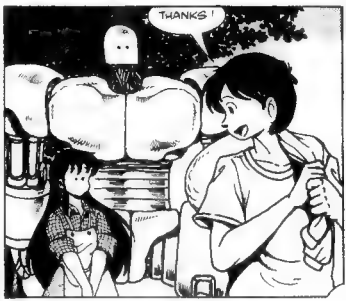
UHMM. HMMM

FANTASTIC! THESE ARE THE BEST TARTS I'VE EVER TASTED!
THANK YOU, SAMMI!
YOU MUST TELL ME IF YOU CAN GET MORE OF THOSE APPLES!

WHY YES



THERE! THAT OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH FOR NOW!


THANKS!

R.N.C.

THUP!

FEH!
IT'S HARD TO SEE WITH THESE THINGS ON!
RNC

THIS TOWN IS REALLY THE PITS! I HOPE DAD COMES HERE SOON AND SEES WHAT A WONDERFUL JOB I'VE BEEN DOING AT THIS RNC BRANCH!
CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES I HAD TO SUFFER HE CAN AT LEAST GIVE ME SOME TIME OFF OUT OF HERE!

IF IT WASN'T FOR SAMMI I WOULDN'T EVEN BOTHER STAYING HERE

SOMETHING ABOUT HER *INTRIGUES* ME.

SHE IS IN A RATHER DIFFICULT SITUATION WITH HER UNCLE BECAUSE OF HER FATHER ...

A.N.C.

IT'S TRUE THAT SHE NEEDS TO HIDE HER TRUE IDENTITY BY DISGUISING AS A BOY

YET I FEEL STRANGELY ATTRACTED TO HER

I HOPE SHE REMEMBERS WE HAVE A LUNCH DATE !

A.N.C.

Eh?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

PARKLANDS
7 CORN
5 CORN
BUNC

ONE SIDE! LET ME THROUGH!

I'M AN IMPORTANT EXECUTIVE, YOU KNOW!

SAMMI! WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!
SAKURA

I DISCOVERED THIS FRUIT AT JEREMY'S HOUSE AND CONVINCED MY UNCLE TO SERVE IT AT LUNCH
AND NOW EVERYONE WANTS SOME!

SAMMI! MORE FRUIT OVER HERE!
SORRY, LENDO, GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK!

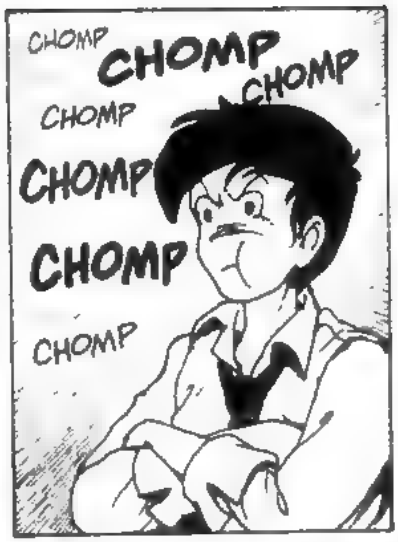
BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR LUNCH DATE?
WELL, YOU CAN SEE THAT THIS SORT OF CANCELS IT FOR TODAY!

NO ONE STANDS UP RIVALSAN LENDO TO SERVE A SILLY PIECE OF BLUE FRUIT!

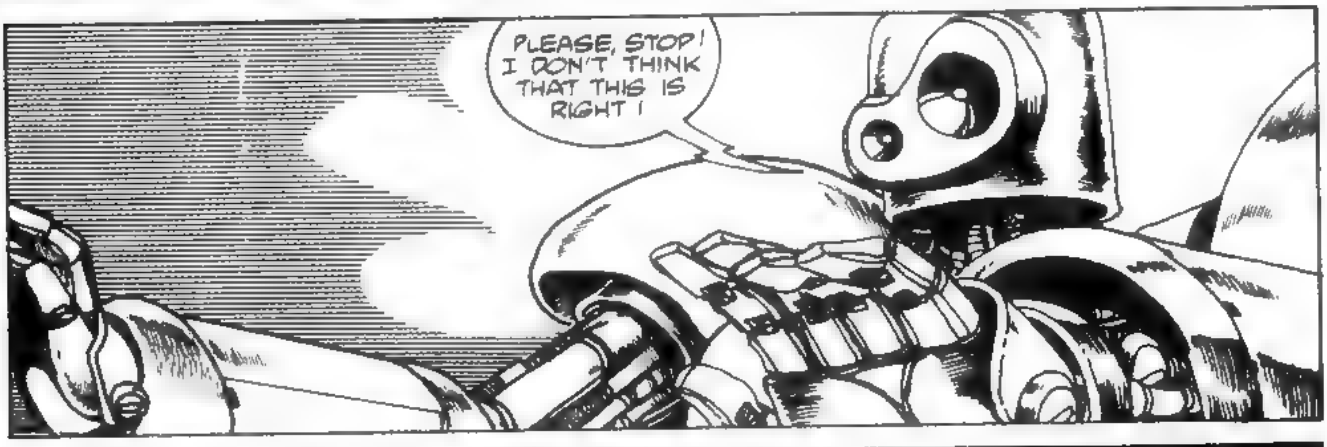
OH, DON'T BE THAT WAY.
HAVE A PIECE!

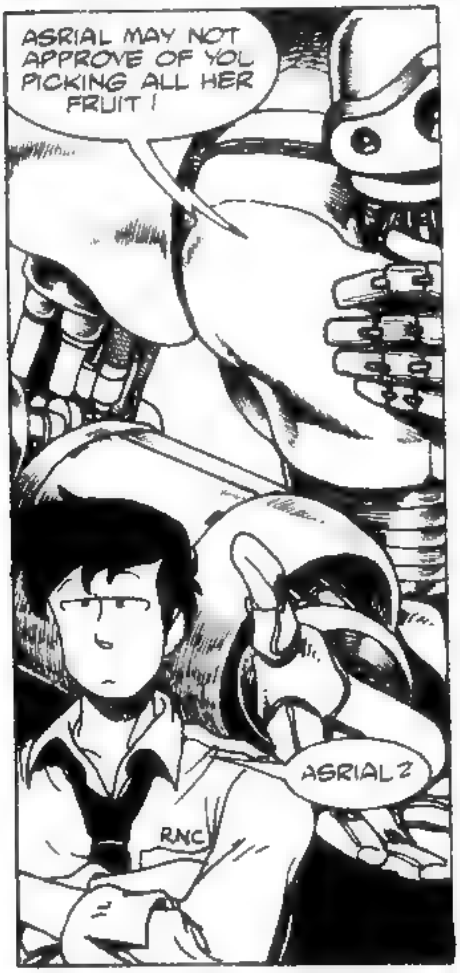
IT'S REALLY GOOD.

OKAY, I'LL TRY IT! OOMPH!
R.N.


CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP

FANTASTIC! WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
FROM ICHI!
SAKURA

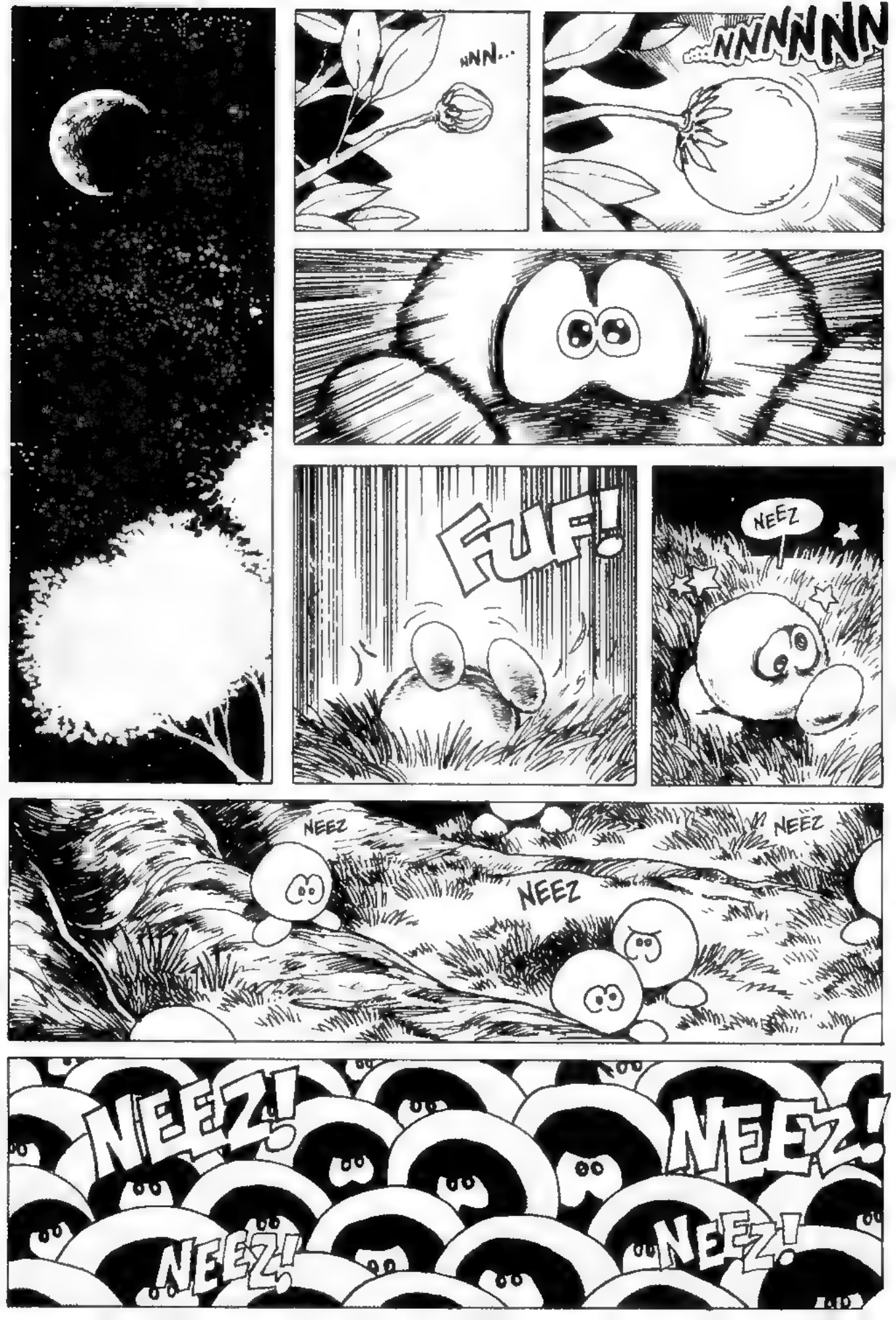

PLEASE, STOP! I DON'T THINK THAT THIS IS RIGHT!


ASRIAL MAY NOT APPROVE OF YOU PICKING ALL HER FRUIT!
ASRIAL?
R.N.C.

YOU NEED NOT WORRY, OLD GAL! I KNOW WHAT I AM DOING IS FOR THE GOOD OF THE R.N. I MEAN, QUAGMIRE!
I'M SURE SHE WOULD APPROVE!
PICK
PICK
PICK
PICK
PICK
R.N.C.

LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS FRUIT!
OH, OH.

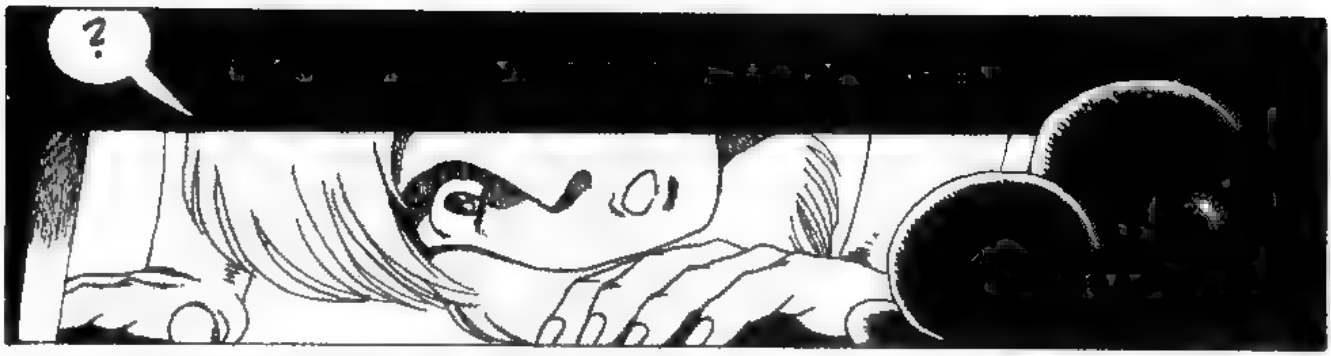
SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO MARKET THIS STUFF ALL OVER THE WORLD! ANYONE WILL WANT SOME!
WITH COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE MARKET, I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE HUGE PROFITS, AND FINALLY..
I'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE QUAGMIRE!
LOOK AT THAT LENDO'S TAKING ALL THE FRUIT! NOW I WISH I HADN'T TOLD HIM ABOUT IT
SIGH! AND I WAS GOING TO BAKE JEREMY A PIE!
ARE YOU STILL AFTER THAT GUY? I MEAN, WHAT DO YOU SEE IN HIM?
OH SAMMI
THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT JUST CAN'T REMAIN BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE
AT FIRST I THOUGHT HIM A FOOL. A LITTLE MAN TO BE MANIPULATED. BUT I GRADUALLY BEGAN TO SEE HIS NOBILITY... HIS INNOCENCE...
OFTEN I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT WONDERING WHAT IT MIGHT BE LIKE TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH HIM
WELL, I'D BE SLEEPY FOR ONE THING..


NNN...
NNNNNN
FUF!
NEEZ
NEEZ
NEEZ
NEEZ
NEEZ!
NEEZ!
NEEZ!
NEEZ!

ZZZ-
SNOR
HEH-HEH WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH HIM?
LET'S RIP HIS EYES OUT!
EAT HIS GUTS.
TEAR OPEN HIS BRAINS!
HA! YOU DEMONS DON'T SCARE ME
I HAPPEN TO KNOW THIS IS ICHI'S DREAM!
HOLD, DEMONS! RELEASE THAT CAPTIVE!
IT IS HER!
HOW ABOUT THAT!
TOLD YOU!
SINCE IT IS MY DREAM, I SUSPECT THAT EVEN AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODD
I WILL WIN BUT FIRST

AAAA AAAA!
...TO SHOW OFF!!
WELL, THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT!
'BOUT TIME.
I GUESS THIS IS THE PART I WHEN THANK YOU FOR RESCUING ME!
I GUESS SO!
THANKS!
HEH
FONDLE!!
WHAT?!

!
AAIIEEE!! WHAT ARE THESE THINGS !?
KA-TING!
KA-TING!
REATURES ! STURBING MY SLEEP !
ICHI WHAT S WRONG ?
I WAS ATTACKED BY LITTLE ROUND RATS !
ARE YOU SURE ? WE'VE NEVER HAD A RAT PROBLEM BEFORE !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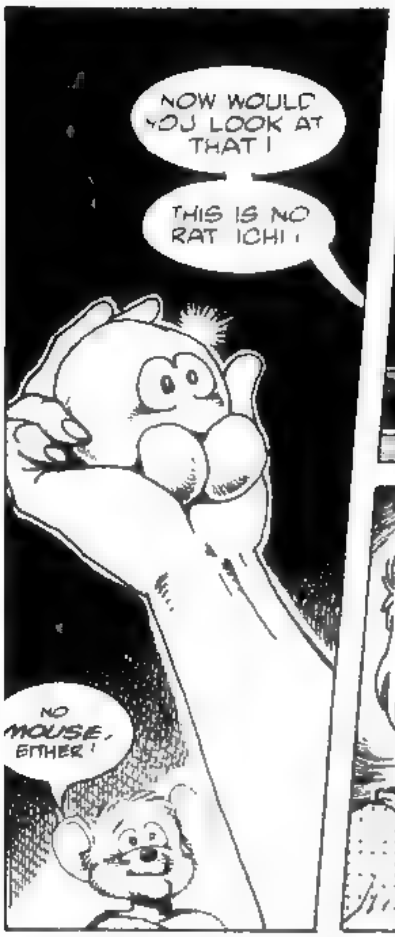

NOW WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT!
THIS IS NO RAT ICHI!
NO MOUSE, EITHER!

CAREFUL! IT STILL MIGHT BITE!
OH, CHI MY YOU ARE CUTE, AREN'T YOU!

WHY, IT'S PERFECTLY HARMLESS!
STROKE STROKE

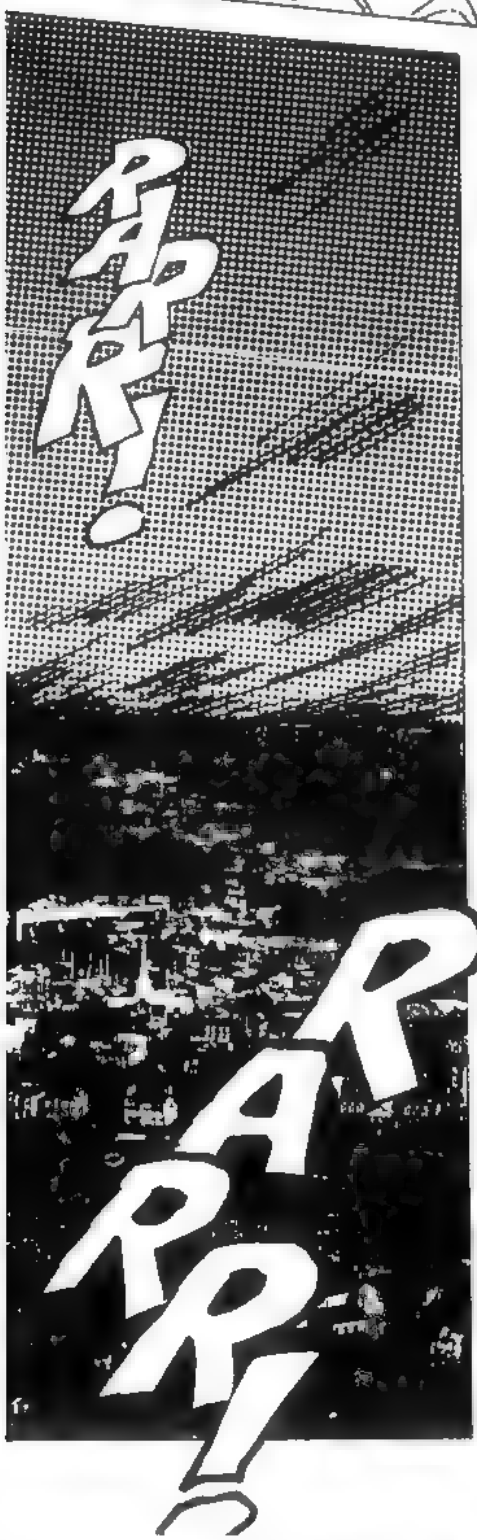
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
I DON'T KNOW! IT CAME FROM OUTSIDE
KRIK KRIK

IT COULD BE THE SHINGLES! THIS IS AN OLD HOUSE
AUNTIE! LOOK!

OH, MY

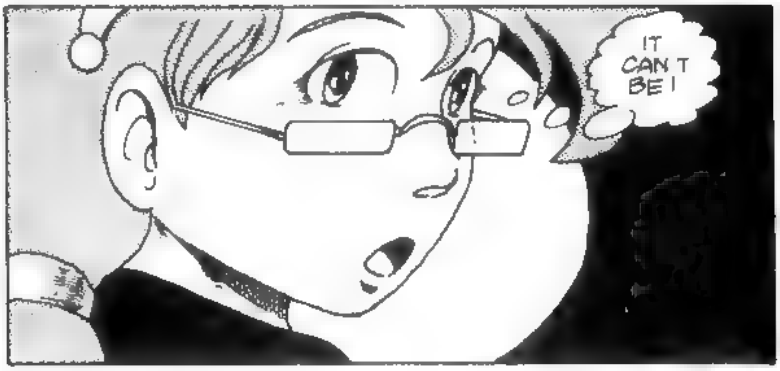
THAT WASN'T THERE THIS MORNING!
IT'S INCREDIBLE! AGRIA'S TREE HAS GROWN TO TREMENDOUS HEIGHTS!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
NEEZ!
LEAP
OH!
IT'S ESCAPING!
NEEZ!
NEEZ!
NEEZ!
NEEZ!
NEEZ!
NEEZ!

RARRR


RARR!
RARRR!

!
SAKURA INN

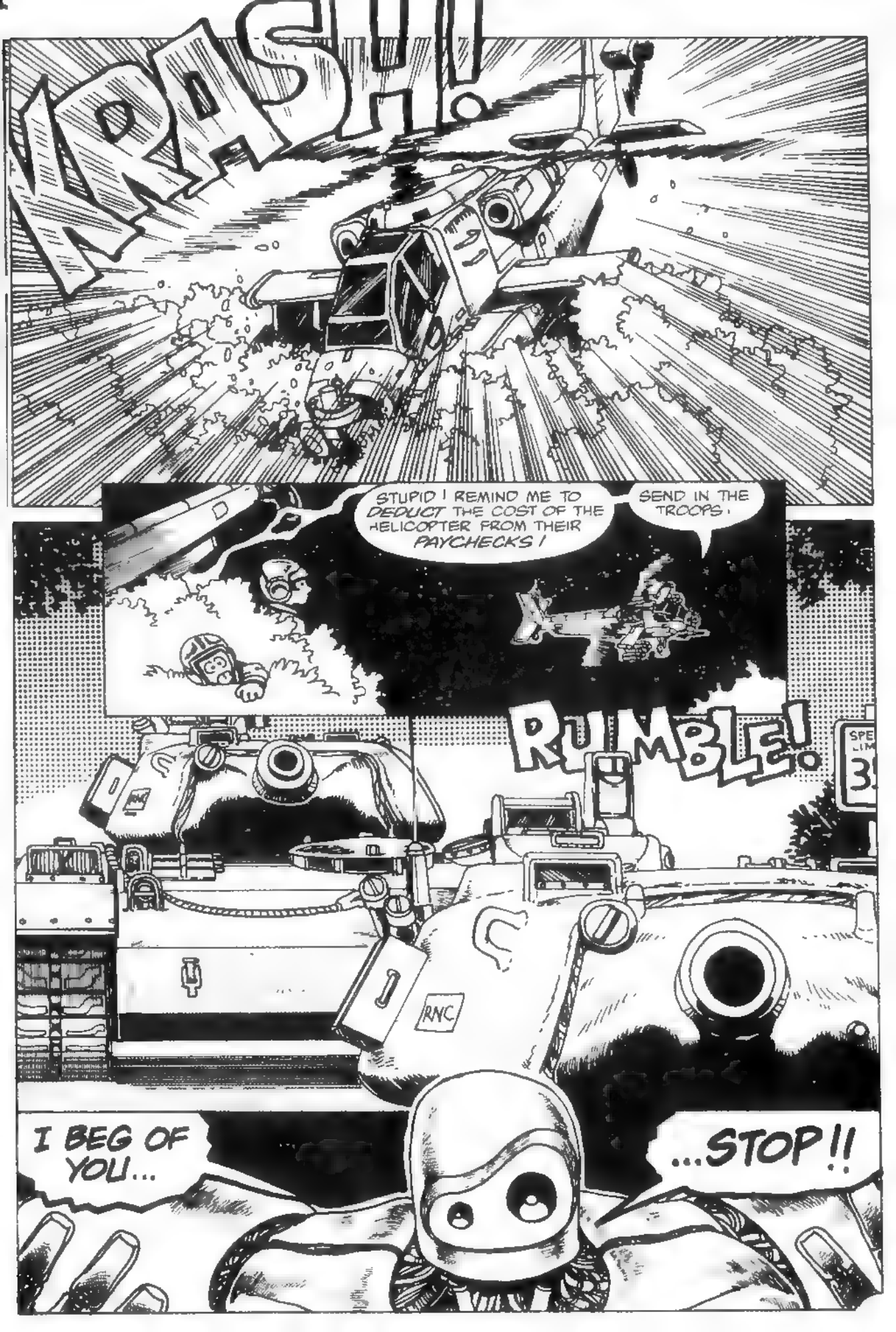
WHAT IN SAM HILL?
THAT ROARING SOUND! WHAT IS IT?
PROBABLY JUST MY STOMACH! I'M GOING TO GET A SNACK!


IT CAN'T BE!

KLOP!
KLOP!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
BREAK-IN AT STORAGE BIN NUMBER 14!
RNC
HOW CAN THAT POSSIBLY BE? WE HAVE THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ALARM SYSTEM IN THE WORLD! WHO WOULD DARE DO THIS?!
LET'S JUST SEE!
PIDDER PAT
PIDDER PAT.
PIDDER PAT
PIDDER PAT.
AW THEY'RE CUTE!
LIKE LITTLE PUFF BALLS!
I WANT ONE!
THAT CHUBBY ONE THERE IS MY FAVORITE!
ENOUGH! CALL OUT THE GUARDS AND STOP THEM!

TRAMPLE!
PREPARE TO FIRE!
BUT THEY'RE SO CUTE!
RUN-OVER!
OUR FORCES FAILED TO STOP THEM!
R.N.C. SATELLITE CONFIRMS THEY ARE HEADING BACK TO THE TREE!
EXCELLENT! THAT IS WHERE WE WILL TRAP THEM! CALL OUT THE HELICOPTERS!
NO OWE STEALS FROM RAOLSAN LENDC AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.
WUP!
WUP!
WUP!

THOSE APPLES BELONG TO ME ! TOOK THEM FAIR AND SQUARE ! THESE ALIEN FRUITS ARE GOING TO GET ME OUT OF THIS HICK TOWN !
RNC
AND NO FUZZY ROUND CREATURES ARE GOING TO STOP ME !
SIR ! WE'VE FOUND THEIR HIDEOUT !
HA! SO THEY THINK THEY CAN ESCAPE FROM ME, EH ?
DIVE AND ATTACK !
LOOK OUT!
SHUSH!
WUP!
WUP!
WUP!


KRASH!
STUPID! REMIND ME TO DEDUCT THE COST OF THE HELICOPTER FROM THEIR PAYCHECKS!
SEND IN THE TROOPS.
RUMBLE!
RNC
I BEG OF YOU...
...STOP!!

SMASH!
I WON'T LET YOU HARM THIS TREE!
IF THAT ROBOT THINKS THAT SHE CAN STOP ME FROM GETTING THOSE APPLES
SHE IS WRONG!
FIRE ALL MISSILES!
WHOOSH!
RMC
RMC
MISS!
NOT EVEN CLOSE!
WAY-OFF!
WHAT? THE MISSILES ARE MISSING!

LAND!
RNC
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TELLING ME WHAT TO DO!!

LAND! RIGHT NOW!
KRAK-BOOM!
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! LAND, YOU FOOL!
RNC
RNC
RNC

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, MIMI? I WANT THE RETURN OF THOSE APPLES!
accuse!
YOUR APPLES!? YOU TOOK THEM WITHOUT ASKING!

THEY'RE MINE! I WAS GOING TO PAY ASRIAL FOR THEM!
BUT YOU DIDN'T ASK THE TREE!

THE TREE? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
AND WHY NOT?

A TREE IS A LIVING EMBODIMENT OF OUR EARTH! WHEN I HEARD IT CRY OUT I KNEW THAT SOMETHING WRONG HAD OCCURED!

NATURE IS A SPIRITUAL ENTITY MUCH LIKE THE BODY OF A MAN

WHEN IT IS HURT IT WILL FEEL *PAIN!*

THAT'S VERY TRUE!

WHO?

I AM THE SPIRIT OF THIS TREE. THOUGH I AM NEW HERE, I CAN ALREADY SEE HOW YOU HUMANS SO CARELESSLY DESTROY THE VERY THINGS THAT GIVE YOU LIFE!

WHOLE FORESTS YOU CUT DOWN! YOU POLLUTE THE WATER AND AIR YOU NEED TO SURVIVE!

HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE WE DECIDE THAT THIS WORLD IS NO LONGER WORTHY OF GIVING LIFE?

THAT IS WHY I HAVE DECIDED TO HAVE ALL TREES STOP GIVING LIFE!

AND RETURN THE EARTH TO ITS *NATURAL STATE!*

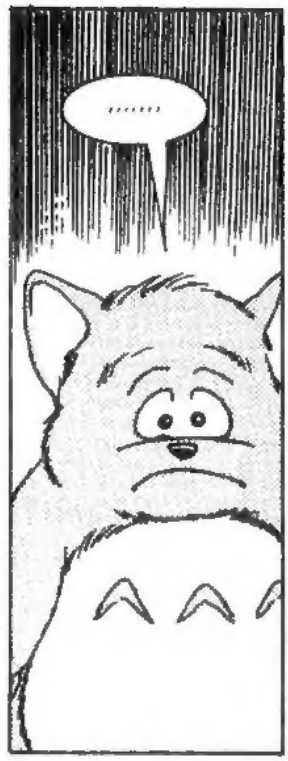
NO! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! YOU HAVE *NO RIGHT!*

YOU HAVE ABUSED YOUR RIGHT! ALL YOU HUMANS THINK ABOUT IS YOURSELVES!

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GAVE A TREE LIFE?

TREE SPIRIT... UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS GRAVE INJUSTICE BEING DONE TO OUR WORLD, BUT NOT ALL IS AS IT SEEMS!
SOMETIMES IT LOOKS LIKE ALL WE ARE CAPABLE OF IS DESTRUCTION!

BUT PLEASE...WE ARE ONLY WHAT WE AS INDIVIDUALS SET OUT TO BE. THERE ARE THOSE WHO WANT TO SAVE OUR EARTH, AS WELL AS DESTROY IT! WOULD YOU WANT THEM TO SUFFER AS WELL...? AFTER ALL, DIDN'T I SAVE YOUR TREE? WOULD YOU WANT ME TO DIE ALSO?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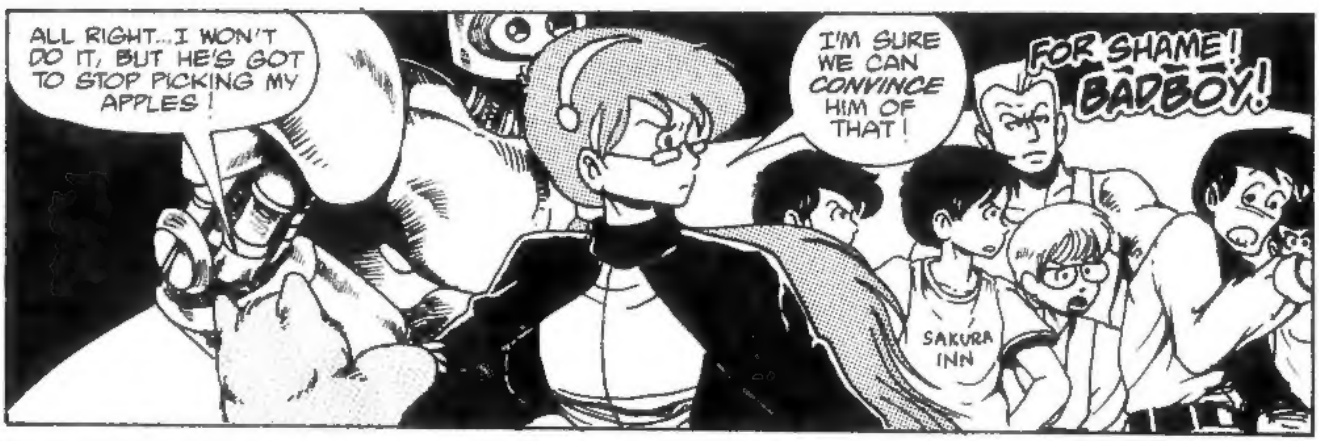
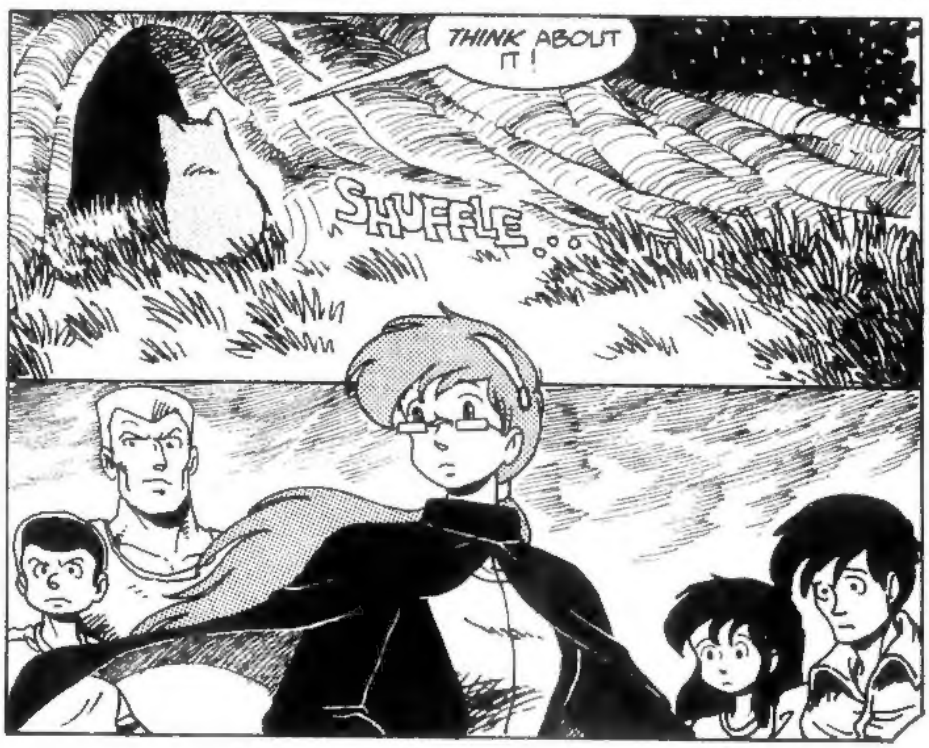
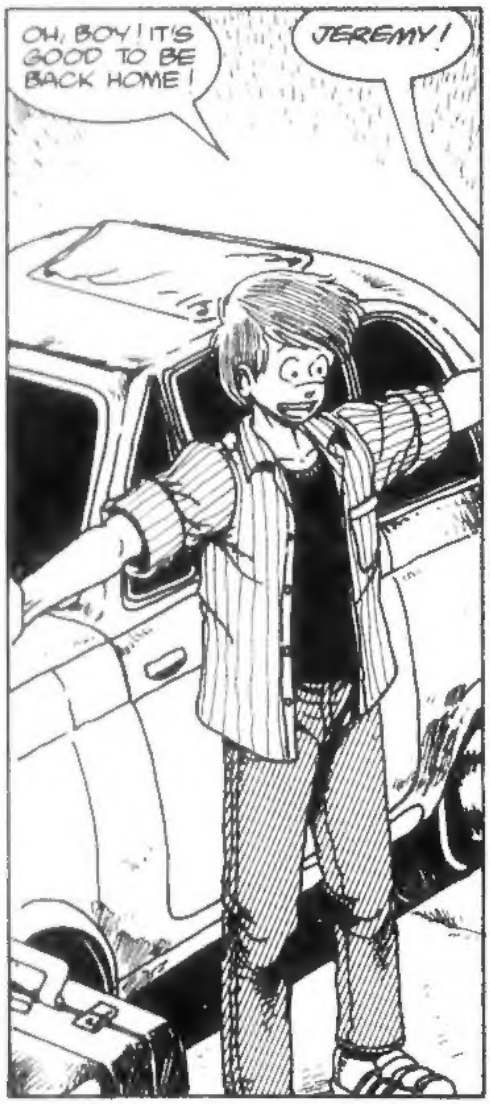

ALL RIGHT...I WON'T DO IT, BUT HE'S GOT TO STOP PICKING MY APPLES!
I'M SURE WE CAN CONVINCE HIM OF THAT!
FOR SHAME! BADBOY!
SAKURA INN

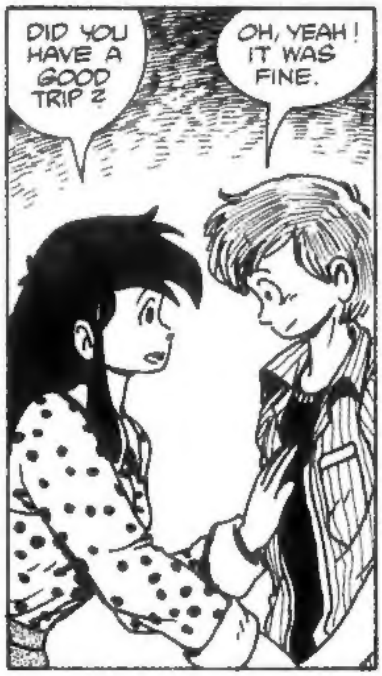
VERY WELL, THEN...YOU HAVE A SECOND CHANCE.
BUT SHOULD YOU CONTINUE TO RUIN THE EARTH...I'LL BE BACK!


THINK ABOUT IT!
SHUFFLE...

THE NEXT DAY...
PUT
PUT


OH, BOY! IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK HOME!
JEREMY!

ITCHY KOO!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!


DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TRIP?
OH, YEAH! IT WAS FINE.

YOU MUST TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT IT!
BOY, WILL I!

"BUT FIRST... ANYTHING HAPPEN HERE?"
"OH, JUST THE USUAL."

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